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Traffickers in Women Find a Rich Source in Slavic Lands

By Michael Specter New York Times Service

RAMLE, Israel - Irina always assumed that her beauty would somehow rescue ber from the poverty and hopelessness of village life. A few months ago, after answering a vague ad in a small Ukrainian newspaper, she slipped off a tour boat when it put in at Haifa, hoping to make a bundle dancing naked on the tops of tables. She was 21, self-assured and glad to be out of

Ukraine. Israel offered a new world, and for a week or two everything seemed possible.

"I own you," she recalled his saying. "You are my property, and you will work until you cam your way out. Don't try to leave. You have no papers and you don't speak Hebrew. You will be arrested and deported. Then we will get you and bring you back."

It happens every single day. Not just in Israel, which has deported nearly 1,500 Russian and Ukrainian women like Irina in the last three years. But throughout the world, where selling naive and desperate young women into sexual bondage has become one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the robust global econ-

new, of course. Asians have been its basic

commodity for decades. But economic hope-lessness in the Slavic world has opened what experts call the most lucrative market of all to criminal gangs that have flourished since the fall of communism: East European women with little to sustain them but their dreams.

Pimps, law-enforcement officials and relief groups all agree that Ukrainian and Russian

omen are now the most valuable in the trade. Because their immigration is often illegal and because some percentage of the women choose to work as prostitutes - statisties are difficult to assess. But the United Nations estimates that 4 million people throughout the world are trafficked each year — forced through lies and coercion to work against their will in many types of servitude. The International Organization for Migration has said that as many as 500,000 women a year are trafficked into Western Europe alone.

Many end up like Irina. Stunned and outraged by the sudden order to prostitute herself, she simply refused. She was beaten and raped be-fore she succumbed. Finally she got a break. The brothel was raided, and she was brought here to Neve Tirtsa in Ramle, the only women's prison in Israel, Now, like bundreds of Ukrainian and Russian women with no documents or obvious forgeries, she is waiting to be sent home.

'I don't think the man who ruined my life

See SEX SLAVERY, Page 7

IMF Reports Progress in **Negotiations** With Jakarta

Major Construction Projects Delayed as Gesture on Eve Of U.S. Delegation's Arrival

By Michael Richardson

SINGAPORE - Negotiations to resolve indonesia's financial crisis have started well, the international Monetary Fund said Sunday, following several hours of talks with a high-level Indonesian government panel and an announcement that President Suharto had ordered major construction projects valued at billions of dollars to be delayed or reviewed.

Emphasizing the urgency of its mission, the IMF team, led by First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer, met key Indonesian cabinet ministers soon after arriving in Jakarta. It is starting fine. We are making progress,

Mr. Fischer said after three hours of discussion

• Opposition leader urges Suharto to quit. Page 4. • Taiwanese business executives are on the prowl for bargains. Page 11.

on what he said was Indonesia's "entire reform program and how to move ahead with it."

He did not give details, but analysts said that the Suharto government still had to persuade the IMF, a U.S. government delegation that is to arrive Monday in Jakarra, as well as the markets that it was prepared to push ahead with politically painful steps to revive investment.

Failure to do so, the analysts said, would send the Indonesian currency and stocks into free fall again, and probably cause a default on huge foreign loans by heavily indebted Indonesian companies that would have setious repercussions on the fragile financial systems of two other IMF loan recipients - South Korea and Thailand — as well as Japan, the largest single

creditor to Indonesia. Mr. Suharto, whose continued rule has been called into question by the crisis, came under new pressure Sunday to accelerate reforms prior to the arrival of the U.S. delegation, headed by Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Sum-

[Mr. Summers met for four hours Sunday night with officials from Singapore's Finance and Foreign ministries, and with Senior Minister an iew, on the lifst stop of his tour of Asia, Bloomberg News reported early Monday.

I"We are here on behalf of the president to consult with countries in the region on economic policy, and to urge that sound policies be taken that can promote confidence and stability," Mr. Summers said.]

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Prime Minister John Howard of Australia telephoned the Indonesian leader to urge him to proceed with IMF-approved measures, Indone-

sia's official Antara press agency reported. In Tokyo, the European trade commissioner,

See ASIA, Page 13

Then, one morning, she was driven to a brothel, where her boss burned her passport omy. The international bazaar for women is hardly before her eyes. Pro-Democracy Forces

In China Get a New Voice

Ex-Official Says Essay Reflects a Wide (if Quiet) View

By Steven Mufson Washington Post Service

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BEIJING - Just two months after Wei Jingsbeng, China's leading dissident, agreed to go into exile, another voice bas joined China's small pro-democracy chorus. This time, however, it's a businessman and former middlelevel government official who claims that his views have a substantial, though still anony-mous, following in the Communist Party itself. Fang Jne, a 44-year-old former deputy director

of the planning commission of the coastal city of Fuzhou, bas co-written and distributed an essay advocating elections for all levels of government including the presidency, freedom of the press and religion, relaxed oversight of social associations, an end to party control of the military, a reversal of the negative verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, negotiations with the Dalai Lama, a further opening of the economy to foreign companies and market competition, and a pro-American foreign policy.

Mr. Fang says that the essay — labeled "The Democratic Faction's Program Proposals" — is the culmination of a series of discussions with pro-democracy members of the Chinese Communist Party, including Central Committee mem-bers, who were disappointed with the absence of political reform initiatives during the 15th party congress in September. He said it represented a synthesis of views, not just his own.

But in an indication of just how remote the proposed freedoms are from the current China, not a single one of those people other than Mr. Fang has been willing to add his or her name to the proposals because of the danger it would pose to their careers within the party and the

'On the surface Chinese society is calm, and within the party and government everyone conforms," Mr. Fang said in an interview in Beijing.
"The deeper reality is that many of the young and middle-aged officials are deeply dissatisfied with the situation and flaws of policies in

Mr. Fang is the latest of a series of intellectuals to issue public calls for radical political reform in the last six months. Others have included an economics professor at Beijing University, a former government economist and a longtime dissident physicist.

See DISSENT, Page 4

A woman weeping Sunday in front of ber destroyed house in Hebei Province. The earthquake killed at least 50 people and injured more than 11,000. Page 4.

Quake in China Leaves Thousands Homeless

Rich and Poor: Europe's Social Rifts Break Through in France

By John Vinocur

PARIS — The occupation by unemployed workers of French job-service offices bas exposed signs of unrest within a new underclass whose emergence has wide implications for the

More than just a 1998 mutation of a classic labor dispute, the conflict involves the awakening of a marginalized segment of society that has begun to articulate a view of its isolation beyond what once were the adequate and protective walls of a modern European welfare state.

By Geraldine Fabrikant and John Markoff

New York Times Service

police intervention to clear the occupied employment centers, the protesters have referred to themselves less as job-seekers than as "the poor,"

NEWS ANALYSIS

revolting against their have not status in a society of record stock market results, lavish Christmas bonuses and devastating unemploy-

Over the last two weeks of protest, traditional union representatives have been rejected as symbols of the status quo, and politicians from both

dard that attracted the broadest selection

competitive marketplace, Mr. Malone

may have unintentionally repeated

most of the chips say Windows, and William Gates is now bolding them," said Richard Doberty, president of En-

visioneering Inc., an industry consult-ing firm based in Seaford, New York. In Mr. Malone's vision of the future interactive cable industry, the line be-

tween traditional television channels

and personal computer software appli-

cations will rapidly be blurred.

For example, while watching the History Channel, a television viewer, the

oretically, will next year be able to use a

handheld clicker to select a character on

the screen and call up a box with ad-

ditional information via the Internet. Or while watching an advertisement, a viewer will be able to click a button and

See MICROSOFT, Page 13

purchase the product on impulse.

Despite his efforts to create a more

"Think of this as a poker table where

of software applications.

IBM's mistake this weekend.

ises of new funds, couched in statements that France has inadequate revenues to meet all the demonstrators' cash demands, were brushed aside with the response that the time had come to

soak the rich. With France as a bellwether, the European conceit that its welfare states were decent and wealthy enough to provide adequate living stan-dards and self-respect for everyone was under challenge through the government's acknowledgment that it could no longer afford to radically improve the lot of the unemployed and semijobless, and by the protesters' awareness for by the old rules.

With variations, France, Germany and Britain shared similar circumstances. All faced the prospect of growth in 1998 at levels below original projections, partly as a result of the Asian crisis; and all had to operate in line with the budgetary strictures, limiting deficit spending, imposed by the Stability Pact of the European Monetary System. This meant that without new job creation, all three of Europe's leading countries would encounter exponential difficulties in re-

See HAVE-NOTS, Page 7

AGENDA



TURNOVER - Levon Kirkland, No. 99, of the Steelers intercepting a

Protestants Claim Killing in Ulster

> The hard-line Loyalist Volunteer Force, a pro-British guerrilla group, took responsibility on Sunday for the killing of a Belfast nightclub door-

In a statement issued to the press, the group said the shooting was in direct response for the recent Maze prison nurder of its leader, Billy

The Loyalist Volunteer Force is not against peace, but not peace at any price," the statement said.

The dead man, Terence Enright, was a relative of Gerry Adams, the Republican leader. Page 4.

PAGE TWO Taleban Runs Afoul of U.S. Feminism INTERNATIONAL Washington Warms to Iran Proposal Opinion .

In Flurry of Activity, Clinton Aims to Fill Policy Void

pass Sunday. But the Broncos won the AFC Championship. Page 18.

By Peter Baker and John F. Harris Washington Past Service

WASHINGTON - With a spurt of initiatives in recent days. President Bill Clinton has moved ag-gressively into the policy void in Washington hoping not only to reinvigorate his presidency, but also to repair his fractured relations with fellow Democrats and outflank Republicans heading into a mid-term

election year. The activist agenda Mr. Clinton has laid out for 1998 reaches out to multiple constituencies, from the early retirees who would be allowed into Medicare to the young parents who would receive more help with child care. Taken as a whole, his new domestic program begins to move away from the carryover issues of his first term and attempts to provide a sense of direction and purpose for his second.

Rankled by the criticism that he had slipped into a

State of the Union Message from a single prime-time speech into a month of rapid-fire announcements.

Each day, the president is pushing forward on some new front, whether it is toughening food inspection,

NEWS ANALYSIS

bolstering AIDS treatment, expanding the Peace Corps or promoting pension tax breaks.

Yet the strategy risks giving the impression of a return to big government, a danger Mr. Clinton tried to temper by again borrowing a Republican idea and vowing to balance the federal budget next year for the first time in three decades - three years earlier than envisioned in the coogressional deal signed last sum-

Al From, president of the centrist Democratic Lead-

malaise three years before leaving office, Mr. Clinton and his aides have transformed the agenda-setting was "seize control of the debate," He added, "By was "seize control of the debate," He added, "By moving on the balanced budget first, he created a context for every part of the debate. And that's important because we want to stand for activist gov-ernment with fiscal restraint."

To the extent that is true, the president may have found a unifying formula for a divided party, something he has not provided since the early days of his administration in 1993.

Even as moderates like Mr. From hail the accelerated elimination of the deficit, liberals like Representative Dick Gephardt, the House minority leader, have embraced his approach as well, not only because it addresses favored social causes, but also because it sets up likely coofrontations with the Republicans that can be taken into the campaign. Indeed, some in

See CLINTON, Page 3

Fresh Warnings That U.S. Risks Asian Backlash

By Michael Richardson International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE - Senior officials of the United States and the International Monetary Fund started crucial talks in East Asia on Sunday that they hope will help settle the region's financial crisis, but the harsh economic policies they advocate could trigger an anti-American backlash that will create dangerous instability in Asia, former U.S. officials and other analysts warned.

Many East Asian leaders, including those in the most seriously troubled economies — Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand --- have expressed support for the higher interest rates and taxes. cuts in government spending and cleanup of the financial system that the IMF and the United States prescribe.

But there is increasing concern among Asian and Western critics of this reform and austerity program that its byproducts — bank and company clo-sures, large-scale layoffs, rising social and political unrest, and loss of national cohesion and self-confidence - could ignite virulent anti-Americanism.

Such a development would undermine support for a continued U.S. military presence in East Asia just when it is most urgently needed to buttress regional peace and security, analysts said.

For now. Asians appear to blame their own governments, banks and businesses," said David Hitchcock, a former U.S. diplomat with extensive experience in East Asia. "But if the harsh measures only now sinking in lead to many more bankruptcies, business closings and layoffs, the blame could swing across the Pacific.

In a speech to the World Affairs Council in Seattle on Friday, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that an anti-American backlash could sweep Asia because of the stringent economic measures imposed by the Fund as a condition of its multibillion-

See BLAME, Page 4



Cable-TV Chief Sets Up Deal to Tame Microsoft NEW YORK - John Malone, chairman of Tele-Communications Inc., believes he can succeed where both Inthe late and the United States Department of Justice have so for failed In two deals armounced at the Con-sumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this weekend, Mr. Malone has unveiled a plan that is designed to rein in Microsoft Corp.'s power and fuel the dy-

namic economic growth that the cable industry has been seeking.

By using Sun Microsystems Inc.'s Java programming language as a counterweight to a consumer version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Mr. Malone is attempting to relegate Microsoft to the same status as his other vendors. But it is a risky gamble. Industry executives in Las Vegas this weekend said the cable-industry infight-ing reminded them of the early days of

three competing operating systems: Microsoft's MS-DOS, Digital Research Corp.'s CP/M, and UCSD Pascal.

Consumers quickly settled on the

Newsstand Prices Antilles 12.50 FF Morocco-Cameroon...1.500 CFA Qatar..... SE 5.50 Reunion Gabon1.100 CFA Senegal1.100 CFA 2,800 Lire Spain ____ Ivory Coast 1.250 CFA Tunisla 1.250 Din1.250 JO U.A.E. ...700 Fils U.S. Mil. (Eur.)....\$1.20

lowest-cost alternative: Microsoft's op-

erating system was the least expensive

option, and it quickly became the stan-

* Kill 1112 15 the personal computer industry. In

1981, IBM initially offered PC buyers



New Opponent for the Taleban / American Rights Groups Speak Up

Afghans' Treatment of Women Leaks Into Pipeline Deal

By Dan Morgan and David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Service

ASHINGTON — In early December, four bearded and turadinon Afghan clerics dressed in tradion al baggy pants stepped from a beli-copter onto an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico operated by Unocal Corp., a huge, California-

based global energy company.

Representing the ultra-conservative Taleban militia that controls most of Afghanistan, the mullahs inspected the latest deep-water drilling technology, ate a meal prepared according to Islamic rules — a gesture arranged by their corporate hosts — and headed back to the mainland for further meetings with their new business associates from Unocal

This improbable partnership between a mod-ern American corporation and a militant Islamic group with social views often described as medieval has become entangled in U.S. strategic policy and domestic politics.

The Taleban and Unocal want to build a \$4.5 billion pipeline carrying Caspian Sea oil and gas across Afghanistan to the Indian subcontinent. The Clinton administration supports the route, which would help free the new nations of Central Asia from dependence on Russia, avoid alternate routes across Iran and bring needed energy to Pakistan and India.

Yet in a vivid illustration of the new political complexities of the global economy, that foreign policy vision has hutted up against a domestic obstacle: the outrage of women's organizatious over what they call "gender apartheid" — the Taleban's barring of women and girls from schools, hospitals and public places.

Such groups as the Feminist Majority and the National Organization for Women have mobilized to prevent the administration from recognizing the Taleban government unless it radically changes its treatment of women. Without that recognition, international lending institutions are unlikely to finance the project and Unocal's plans will be stymied, State Department and company officials said.

The impasse also reflects an emerging pattern in which U.S. policy toward Central Asia, site of the world's largest untapped oil and gas reserves outside the Middle East, must heed powerful grass-roots constituencies at home.

Armenian-American organizations, for example, oppose U.S. assistance to Armenia's oilendowed enemy, Azerbaijan. Pro-Israeli groups lobby in Washington to prevent Central Asian oil and gas from passing through Iran, viewed by Israel as its most dangerous enemy. And buman rights advocates in the United States have begun questioning U.S. support for autocratic regimes

But in the case of the trans-Afghan pipeline, it

is activist American women repelled by the Taleban wbo may hold the key.

'I don't remember us organizing on an international issue like this before," said Eleanor Smeal, who beads the Feminist Majority, a nonprofit political action group with 30,000 mem-

The efforts include organizing protests outside the embassies of Afghanistan and Pakistan, mobilizing women's groups across the United States to pass resolutions condemning the Taleban, lobbying Congress and the United Nations and meeting with State Depart-ment and White House of-

American, Afghan and European women's groups also are working to make the Taleban's treatment of Afghan women the focus of International Women's Day on March 8. And Unocal has been pressed to make room for Afghan women in pipeline construction train-

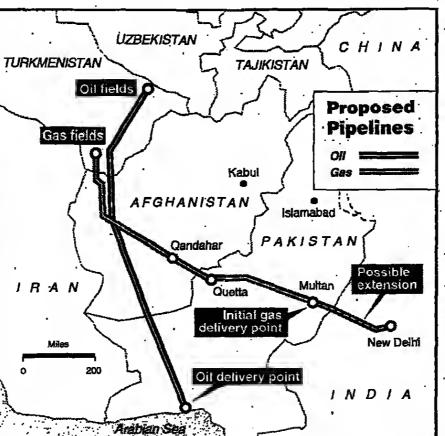
The passions aroused have created a political dilemma for the Clinton administration as it balances

foreign policy interests against political considerations. President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore campaigned aggressively on the issue of violence against women in 1996, and women have voted far more beavily than men for Democratic candidates in recent national and

Some conservative Republicans also have begun criticizing the Taleban in what political analysts said was an effort to polish the party's image with women alienated by its anti-abortion

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Hillary Rodham Clinton have condemned the Taleban's policies toward women. In November, Mrs. Albright, deplored "their despicable treatment of women and children and their lack of respect for burnan dignity, in a way more reminiscent of the past than the future."

But administration officials have left the door open to working with the Taleban if certain conditions are met, including reconciliation with opposition factions still controlling the northern third of Afghanistan.



Karl Inderfurth, assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, said in an interview: "The Taleban will not change their spots, but we do believe they can modify their behavior and take into account certain international standards with respect to women's rights to education and em-

GAINST this uncertainty, Unocal, a company with worldwide operations, has pressed ahead on several fronts. In late October it announced the formation of an international consortium to build a 1,250-kilometer gas line from Turkmenistan to Pakistan, which would cross Taleban-controlled territory in Afghanistan. Turkmenistan has approved Unocal's plan, and Pakistan wants to buy

the gas.
In November, Unocal began training Afghans to build the line.

The Taleban stands to collect \$50 million to \$100 million a year in transit fees if the pipeline is built, according to Marry Miller, a Unocal vice

Unocal and its main partner, the privately owned oil company Delta, in Saudi Arabia, also have been in-volved in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts to make peace between the Taleban and its remaining opponents in northern Afghanistan, said congressional and other sources. The goal, they said, was to create conditions for a broad-based government that could win formal recognition from the United States.

The Taleban's takeover of the Afghan capital of Kabul in September 1996 initially was welcomed cautiously by the U.S. administration. A senior Unocal executive pronounced the takeover a 'very positive" development that would provide the fractured country with "a single governmen

The chief Taleban repre-sentative in the United States, Abdul Hakim Mu-jahid, has dismissed the furor over the militia's treatment of women. "Ninety-nine percent of Afghan women are supporting the Taleban policy toward women," be said, with resistance to that policy stemming from "only percent of Afghan women

tied to a communist style of liberation."
Unocal officials initially resisted requests last year from women's and human rights groups to discuss Afghan issues.

"They were less than enthusiastic at first about meeting with us, 'said Lea Browning, an official with the Working Group on the Human Rights of Women. "It took them a little while to

understand the constituency we represent."
At a subsequent meeting in Washington with Unocal officials, delegates from the Working Group advocated including Afghan women in

the company's training program.

In mid-November, Unocal started a \$900,000 training program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha to train 137 Afghan men in pipeline-building skills. The program managers hope to begin training women for clerical jobs and support services this weer said Thomas Counterer. port services this year, said Thomas Gouttierre, head of the university's Afghan studies center.

Unocal also is financing several projects to train women as teachers in Taleban-controlled areas; the company said it intends to provide jobs to Afghan women as well as men.

Tanker Traffic In Bosporus **Raises Specter** Of Catastrophe

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL - Before dawn Tuesday, winds from the Black Sea pushed a thick fog bank down the Bosporus, forcing officials to close it to all traffic. Giant oil tankers lined up at both ends

until the fog lifted in midafternoon.

The closing came three weeks after a Norwegian tanker carrying 30,000 tons of crude oil ran aground almost directly in front of a Bosporus mansion owned by former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. Like most of the loaded tankers that use the waterway, it was headed for Western Europe from a Russian port on the Black Sea. This time, no cargo spilled.

Both episodes underlined growing fears bere that, as huge amounts of oil and gas begin flowing from the Caspian Sea basin, tanker traffic through the Bosporus is reaching dangerous levels, Environmentalists fear the possibility of major oil spills or a catastrophic

explosion.
There have been more than 150 mishaps along the Bosporus in the last decade. In one of the most serious, an oil tanker collided with another vessel in 1994, resulting in the death of 28 seamen and a 15,000-ton oil spillage that burst into a spectacular fire. Some Turks believe these are only hints of what could come if the number of tankers passing through each day increased substantially from the current 10 or 12.

"You ve got a very narrow waterway with treacherous currents and several sharp twists and turns," said Mustafa Aksin, secretary-general of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Business Council, "The city of Istanbul is built with the city of Istanbul is built right up to the shore on both sides. The vessels that pass through are increasing in size and number, and many of them are carrying lethal cargo. Add it all up and you see that a serious catastrophe is quite conceivable.'

The Bosporus is 27 kilometers (17 miles) long but only 640 meters (700 yards) wide at some points. In addition to serving as the sole connection between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, it is a vital bridge for mi-

grating fish and other marine creatures. History and romance mix with geography and politics along the Bosporus. Jason supposedly led his Argonaus through it during their epic search for the Golden Fleece, and in 513 B.C. the Persian emperor Darius had a bridge of ships built across it so he could lead his army toward Greece. To this day it is lined with forts and palaces, testimony

to its strategic value.

As Turkish officials now seek to impose new restrictions on use of the Bosporus, their efforts are complicated by international agreements and highstakes geopolitical jockeying for the vast wealth represented by rich new oil and gas fields in the Caspian basin.

Under a 1936 treaty, Turkey may not interfere with transit through the Bosporus. Turkish officials strongly recommend, for example, that captains of for-eign tankers and freighters take on specially trained pilots to guide their vessels through the Bosporus. But they cannot make the use of pilots compulsory, as it is in the Panama Canal and other difficult waterways. Most serious accidents have involved ships without pilots.

Turkey also cannot require that tankers using the Bosporus have double hulls or other safety features. Nor can it insist that they carry enough insurance to cover the costs of any accident they might cause, or for that matter any insurance at all.

Conditions have changed tremendously since the treaty was signed in 1936," said Nihat Gokyigit, an Istanbul businessman who has written and

spoken widely about the Bosporus. Then there were only two vessels a day passing through the Bosporus; now there are 140," he said. "Tankers were 40 meters long then; now they're up to 350 meters. There has also been a buge increase in local traffic, with 1,500 small boats using the Bosporus every day. It has become the husiest waterway in the world, three times busier than the

Snez Canal."

Northeast U.S. **And Quebec** In Storm's Grip

Agence France-Presse MONTREAL - Thousands of people in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States huddled in emergency shelters early Sunday as they prepared to face another day of a deadly winter storm that has resulted in widespread power outages.

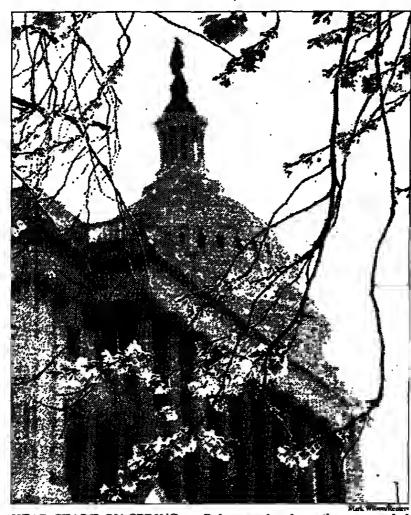
The storm has ravaged the region since Monday, toppling trees and power plylons. Eleven deaths have been blamed on the storm in Canada, and at least four in the United States.

Some 1.2 million bomes in Quebec, sheltering 40 percent of the province's population, were without electricity and, for the most part, heat Saturday. Snow and freezing rain also hit the northeastern Uniated States, curring

power to nearly 500,000 inhabitants of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. Over the last few days, as much as four inches (10 centimeters) of ice have accumulated, bringing down power lines and damaging millions of trees, weather forecasters said. In Quebec, 30,000 people were

spending the night at 273 emergency shelters throughout the province. The American Red Cross said 1,290

people were being put up in 44 shelters. More than 5,000 people also lost their telephone service in New York state. In Maine 155,000 homes were without electricity, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



HEAD START ON SPRING - Balmy weekend weather persuaded some of Washington's famed cherry trees that spring had come.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Hong Kong Restaurants

HONG KONG (Renters) — Hong Kong, a city with 10,000 licensed restaurants, could see the closure of up to nine months as a result of an economic downturn and the Asian financial crisis, according to an industry expert.

Tommy Cheung, president of the Association of Restaurant Managers, told the South China Morning Post that the industry would fall into recession as a result of a fall in the local stock and property markets and the downturn in the economy and tourism industry.

We should see sales drop 10 to 15 percent in the fourth quarter (of 1997) compared with the same period in 1996," Mr. Cheung said. "And the first three months to six months of this year will be extremely bad."

Washington Obelisk Shuts for Restoration

WASHINGTON (NYT) — The Washington Monument closed Sunday for four months as part of a restoration project expected to last at least two

The first phase will involve the modemization of the air-conditioning and heating systems, as well as the 40-yearold elevator, which takes visitors to the observation deck. As designated by federal law, the 555-foot (170-meter)

Asia Woes Could Close monument is the tallest building in the visitors a year.

city, and its views attract about a million Once the interior remodeling is com-

pleted, the monument will reopen to the public. The second phase will focus on the exterior. Steel scaffolding, sheathed in a transparent blue fabric whose pattern will mimic the masonry, will surround the obelisk. The intent is to spruce up what might otherwise be an eyesore on the Washington Mall, the stretch between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial.

Snow dusted the ancient domes of Jerusalem and Damascus on Sunday as a blast of cold weather buffeted the region. Snow fell on the gold dome of the Omar mosque on the Temple Mount of Jerusalem's Old City but quickly melted. In higher areas of the city like Mount Herzl, snow stack briefly before

Damascus got its first snow of the winter as snowfalls were reported in the Syrian mountains.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays: MONDAY: Colombia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania,

TUESDAY: Puerto Rico, Togo WEDNESDAY: Sri Lanka THURSDAY: Japan, Malawi. Sources: J.P. Morgan, Bloomberg

WEATHER

In this Tuesday's



Milan Menswear

Shaping up to the New Season



THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



Have you been to THE INTERMARKET today?

Don't miss it. A lot happens there.



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In Bosham Independent Interest Groups Outspending the Candidates on Political Ads

SANTA BARBARA, California -So many independent interest groups are tising to influence elections this year that Republicans and Democrats alike fear the candidates may find themselves playing bit parts in their own camthe late difful to the late of the late of

coast, offers a preview. Flip on the television or radio and it sounds in the advertising as if the contenders in a vertisements. special election Tuesday want to talk about term limits or abortion.

But the candidates themselves insisted in interviews that they would prefer to debate other issues, like education and taxes.

Instead, many commercials and dipaigns. rect-mail drives are being orchestrated by outside groups whose officials know nothing about Santa Barbara except in 1994, and they proliferated in the what they might have seen in the defunct television soap opera bearing its name. "Is this the future of campaigns?"

asked Tom Bordonaro Jr., a Republican pect this to be a pivotal year in which preme Court ruling in 1996 that the state assemblyman who is seeking the groups from both left and right transform federal government may not limit bow ground; it can be difficult to trace on cause there are no other campaigns and, seat. "Pretty soon, all we're going to polinics by dominatin have to do is file and sit back and let all around the country. these independent expenditures run the poised to spend large sums on adver- show. It's going to be rolling the dice whether you get into office or not."

paigns.

The first congressional campaign of course. They can also skirt federal contribution limits and disclosure regulations by trying to help for more offen. tions by trying to help (or, more often, hart) a candidate with their own ad-

Spending by these groups rivals can-didates own television budgets.

Their commercials frequently name candidates directly and are often difficult to distinguish from those written. produced and paid for by the cam-

Interest groups were instrumental in of the groups themselves said they ex-

polines by dominating races at all levels

Gary Bauer, a prominent conservative didates are working together.

"Our sense is that both parties will who last year set up an anti-abortion organization, the Campaign for Working engage in running issue ads at all dif-By paying for their own commercials Families, said the group was pumping rather than donating directly to a can- \$100,000 into television commercials in said Dan Sallick, communications dididate, these groups find that they have the district this weekend to help Mr. rector of the Democratic Congressional more control over the campaign dis- Bordonaro. Mr. Bauer said the special election here was only a precursor.

> abortion issue "a much higher profile than it would have had" in the race.

By dictating the agenda on the issues, these outside groups could bring about a committee was so concerned about the nationalization of elections that bave spending by these groups that it was traditionally been fought at the local level. Rather than argue over matters of time raising money so they can comintense concern to local voters, these groups encourage a bitter partisan debate on issues that may be of greater

consequence in Washington. Political parties have also been spurred to mount their own independent campaigns in the wake of a U.S. Su-

didates - unless the party and can- are financed

ferent levels of the federal elections," Campaign Committee, which helps elect Democrats to the House.

through talking about the issues we care up to the candidate's consultants and and heir to a tire manufacturing forabout most.'

Yet Mr. Sallick said the campaign spending by these groups that it was urging candidates to devote even more

more aggressive in their fund-raising be said. "We want them to have the opportunity to get their message

By bypassing candidates' campaigns. special punch in the special election here District."

"We're bound to see a substantial a number of reasons, but the first is that after just 10 months in office. they appear to work," said Larry Sabato, a government professor at the University of Virginia and an authority on interest

group advertising.
"Secondly, there's no better way of managers to decide what issues to tune.

continued, "is it's a trend. The internal energy builds on itself."

He also said he believed many groups had turned to issue advertisements out of "We counsel a lot of candidates to be concern that efforts to change the campaign finance system would further limit how much they could directly spend on

The issue commercials may pack a

much the parties spend to help can- whose behalf they operate and bow they thus, no competition for media attention. The contest is to complete the term of Representative Walter Capps, a Demoincrease in expenditures for issue ads for crat who died of a heart attack in October

The election is essentially an open primary, where voters can cross party

lines to make their choices. Mr. Capps's widow, Lois, is seeking to replace him. The other major canbringing attention to an issue agenda. If didates are two Republicans, Mr. Bor-"We intend in the months ahead to be in races all over," he said, adding that his efforts bere have given the late-term-

> The winner has to get more than 50 'And the third reason," Mr. Sabato percent of the vote or there will be a

runoff. "The independent expenditures give me the willies," Mr. Firestone said.
"We have a host of issues that need to

be addressed by mature, intelligent people, and along come the outside groups who by sheer weight of money and emotion drive the debate on issues that wouldn't otherwise involve the 22d

COSTA RICAN ELECTIONS — Jose Miguel Corrales, presidential candidate of the National Liberation Party, addressing supporters at a raily the country prepared for national elections Feb. 1.

CLINTON: In Flurry of Activity, President Aims to Fill Policy Void said Laura D'Andrea Tyson, will focus instead on the to- that that approach would

the enemy camp see the Clinton announcements as nothing more than a revival of oldstyle liberalism for the purpose of mollifying a disgruntled party cancus and

crafting an election platform. "It's a political year and be's trying to find common loosened the shackles that reground with the House and strained Mr. Clinton's expanneth Duberstein, White ident Ronald Reagan's second term.

In some fashion, the past few weeks could be taken as tried to bead off criticism that the true start of Mr. Clinton's the new-found activism second term.

January, 1997 turned out to be era of big government is over. ing them little to run on. a backward-looking year for The five-year, \$21.7 billion Mr. Clinton — on the de-fensive because of investiga-ample, relies heavily on tax tions into his 1996 campaign credits and block grants to fund-raising activities and states—favored tools of confund-raising activities and consumed with cleaning np old issues, most notably by resolving the balanced- The Medicare expansion to budget battle that dominated early retirees as young as 62

his first term. With Washington's interest in campaign impropri-eties subsiding, the deficit all but eradicated and his poll numbers as strong as ever, ter are administration offi-Mr. Clinton bopes to have a cials that they repeatedly emsecond chance to promote phasized the incremental progressive policies and ac-nature of the Medicare plan. tivist government.

had to give way to the em-phasis on deficit reduction." licans are hoping the public battles to wage, but cautioned 27.

argues that his philosophy has government. been consistent even as the

Michael Franc, of the Heritage Foundation, said the end for the House Ways and deficit politics bas Senate Democrats who are up sionist impulses in recent for re-election," said Ken- years. "We're seeing the result of the pent-up demand to crats, many of whom bave cans. House chief of staff in Pres- have government be active been spoiling for a fight. again, or to be more active than it's been." he said.

White House officials have amounts to a reversal of Mr. After his manguration in Clinton's declaration that the servatives for enacting social change.

> and dislocated workers as young as 55 was designed to be cost-free by requiring those who opt in to pay their way. So sensitive to the mat-

Recognizing that the indi-"There are things he can vidual ideas may prove pop-

chief economics adviser in tality of Mr. Clinton's agenda backfire if taken so far that his Mr. Clinton's first term, who as evidence of his addiction to popularity suffered, officials

'Taken together, these Washington environment has ideas represent a return to big government," said Ari Fleiscber, Republican spokesman Means Committee. "He set both parties up for a very fair fight over the proper role and size of government."

House leaders in particular have complained that Mr. Clinton, in his eagerness to split the difference with Republicans and pass compropublicans and pass compro-mise legislation, has helped resist Mr. Clinton's Medicare himself but hurt them by leav-

That debate over strategy was the focus of a pre-Christleader, and Erskine Bowles, White House chief of staff.

With their eye on finding a way to recapture the House (the Senate appears out of reach to White House aides). the hour-long session concen- Republicans would be poorly trated on how much emphasis positioned to respond. to put on scoring policy achievements versus defining

said later.

He also said he has looked at history and concluded that the best way to counter the "six-year itch" - in which voters punish a second-term president's party in Congress - is to keep his approval ratings high, which means finding areas where be can That is fine with the Demo- strike deals with Republi-

> Still, what Mr. Gephardt reported back to colleagues pleased many because they believe Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, and his fellow and child-care plans, providing what they hope will be potent issues.

As they rolled out their domas meeting in the Oval Office that included Mr. Clinton; Mr. Gephardt; Vice House officials acknowlpiece in recent days, White President Al Gore; Tom edged that they wanted to dis-Daschle, the Senate minority pel the perception that the president was out of ideas. With Congress away on an unusually long break, Mr. Clinton's aides calculated they would have the field to themselves and that absent

Indeed, they bave made so much of the president's issues that can be used against agenda public that some aides Republicans in the campaign. privately moan they have Mr. Clinton agreed at the nothing much left to present State of the

> Last Wednesday night, Mr. Clinton convened more than a dozen scholars and authors at the White House for a mara-

thon discussion.

Mucb of the four-hour philosophical discussion, according to participants, centered on the role of government in the post-balanced budget age, globalization of the world economy and the president's initiative to pro-

mote racial reconciliation. Benjamin R. Barber. a political scientist at Rutgers. said be came away convinced that Mr. Clinton was as engaged as ever.

Gore to Begin Raising Funds

POLITICAL NOTES

WASHINGTON - With one eye on the 1998 congressional elections and another on his ambitions to become president, Vice President Al Gore is preparing to form a political action committee to funnel money to Democratic candidates running for office in November.

Most of the money raised will go to Democratic candidates running this year, which in turn will help the vice president build support for his anticipated presidential campaign in 2000. But the move will draw unention to the issue that plagued him last year. He drew intense criticism for making fund-raising calls from the White House in 1996 and for attending a controversial fund-raising event at a Buddhist temple in California. (WP)

Moratorium on Logging Roads

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration plans to suspend construction of logging roads in the back country of most national forests, a step that would effectively stop

logging on some of the most pristine public land.

Road building on millions of acres of forests could be affected, mostly in the Western states. Many of these areas contain virgin stands of timber, prime wildlife habitat and pristine streams.

Although some environmental advocates do not think the plan goes far enough, the proposal represents an opportunity for Vice President Gore to enhance his standing in one of his core constituencies.

Ferraro Set to Work the Phones

NEW YORK - Geraldine Ferraro announced that she would enter New York's U.S. Senate race in a brief, exuberant tour across the state last week. But for the next few months she will have to spend bours a day, phone in hand, appealing for campaign contributions from wealthy people, many of whom she has never met.

She has little choice. In an era when Senate candidates

start raising money years before their elections, Mrs. Ferraro is beginning just eight months before the Democratic

primary. Her campaign account is practically empty.

One of ber Democratic opponents, Representative
Charles Schumer, bas more than \$8 million. The other, Mark Green, the New York City public advocate, bas nearly \$1 million. The incumbent Republican, Alfonse

D'Amato, bas more than \$9 million. Mrs. Ferraro was the first woman ever nominated by a major party to run for vice president, in 1984, when she was Walter Mondale's running mate. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Ms. Ferraro, who expects to spend six to eight hours a day on fund-raising: "It's an awful thing. The terrible thing is getting on there and saying, 'Please give me money.' Ugb! I dread doing it. But I will do it, and I will raise it, and we will have a sufficient amount of money. run this campaign."



AMERICAN

'Caged Bird' Is Silenced In Maryland Classrooms

In Maryland, two public school superintendents have removed books by prominent black authors from high school English classes at the urging of some parents who called the works

Maya Angelou's autobiographical "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" was removed from the ninth-grade English curriculum in Anne Arundel County, although it will still be taught in the 11th grade, The Washington Post reports. In St. Mary's County, Toni Morrison's "Song of Solomon" was dropped. Both superintendents overruled faculty committee recommendations and sided with small groups of parents.

Both the Angelou and the Morrison books are widely considered modern classics of African-American literature. Ms. Angelou's book, a searing look at her childhood in segregated Arkansas,

is a staple in English classes across the country. | in gun use. Of its 420 bomicide victims in 1996, Sue Crandall, the parent who sparked the protest against the Angelou autobiography, called the removal a victory for common sense. Mrs. Crandall, who is white, said "Caged Bird" is sexually explicit. Moreover, she said, Ms. Angelou "portrays white people as being horrible, nasty, stupid people."

Ms. Angelou could not be reached for comment and Ms. Morrison declined to comment. But the decision brought angry protests from stu-dents, teachers and others. "The decision was bigoted," said Everlyn Holland, 65, a retired nurse who is black. "'Song of Solomon' put a

buman face on African Americans," she said.

'and that makes people nervous." **Short Takes**

Lawyers for the mayor of Philadelphia have propared an extraordinary lawsuit contending that the nation's gun industry has created a public nuisance by saturating the city with firearms. The suit, if Mayor Ed Rendell goes ahead with it, would demand that gun makers reimburse the city for costs stemming from guns, ranging from homicide-unit overtime to the cost of washing blood off streets, reports The Philadelphia In-

Unlike other cities, Philadelphia has seen a rise

80 percent were shot to death, the highest proportion in any U.S. city.

The idea of a suit mirrors an approach taken by a group of state attorneys general who negotiated a groundbreaking settlement last year with the tobacco industry. It apparently would be a first against the firearms trade. Manufacturers, however, insist that their product is lawful, and

that they bear no fault if guns are misused.

Fewer golden eagles flew across the Grand Canyon this fall than in any year on record, a trend worrying to environmentalists and which has ramifications for livestock owners. Only 26 of the eagles were among the 7,000 birds of prey counted by a nonprofit group called HawkWatch International, reports The Arizona Republic; the numbers were also down in 10 other states. The eagles cat rabbits, which, like cattle and sheep, consume native grasses. But those grasses are being replaced by cheatgrass, a Russian plant imported in the last century to stop erosion. Cheatgrass, which has steadily spread, grows quickly in the spring but dies out in warmer than the leaving account of a wildlife or live. months, leaving no nutrition for wildlife or livestock, Government officials, livestock owners and environmentalists are seeking a solution.

Brian Knowlton

Away From Politics

• A man who poured bot coffee on a flight attendant first class on a flight from Houston to Los Angeles pleaded guilty in Los Angeles has become a rallying point of interfering with a flight crew. Thomas Kasper, 36, will go on trial next week on a charge of film where the contract of the contr kick open the cockpit door

'up to life in prison. (Reuters) · Paula Jones has nearly tripled to \$2 million the amount she wants to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton and is insisting on an apology from the president, CBS News reported, citing unidentified sources. (Reuters)

• The space probe Lunar Prospector successfully ex-

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ecuted the first of three engine bursts needed to put it in orbit arter be and a companion around the moon, NASA of-were denied an upgrade to ficials said. (Reuters)

· A California woman who charge of disrupting the flight. He allegedly tried to kick open the cockpit door during landing. He could face obesity.

prison sentence of 10 years if convicted, a man accused of minning a nationwide scheme to sell answers to graduate school exams left court in New York City and later was

tire and coming to rest in a field of mud. No one was hurt • After hearing from a on the flight by the Costa Ric-judge that he faced a possible an carrier Lacsa. (AP)



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Mrs. Megawati Says She Is Ready to Govern

By Seth Mydans

BANGKOK - Indonesia's leading opposition figure, Megawati Sukarnoputri, has called on President Subarto to step down when his term ends in March and told a chanting crowd that she is ready to succeed him.

Her declaration Saturday were made during a period of growing public de-mands for an end to Mr. Subarto's 32year rule as the country's economy swirls in crisis. A crash in the currency Thursday touched off a wave of panie

buying.
"I hereby take this opportunity to declare my determination to become the is indeed the will and consensus of the people," she told about 500 supporters in the garden of her home outside Jakanta

But the possibilities for Mrs. Mega-wati to assume power are limited, and her speech seemed to involve protest as is expected to be reappointed by a largely handpicked assembly.

Over the last two years, Mrs. Mega-

wati — the daughter of Indonesia's founding father, Sukarno - has become the symbol of dissatisfaction with Mr. Subarto and the focus of the nation's suppressed grievances.

herself forward as a candidate to succeed him in a country where open challenges te Mr. Suharto are not tolerated. Suppression of ber growing popularity 18 months ago led to the worst rioting in

Continued from Page 1

have taken part in wider discussions with

hundred party members and government

to join. A native of Beijing, he spent four

years in the Shaanxi Province coun-

tryside planting crops during the Cul-

tural Revolution before returning to

Beijing and graduating from Beijing University with a degree in economics.

He has worked for the Chinese Academy

of Social Sciences, the Research Insti-

tute of Political Science, and the Fuzhou

the support of former colleagues in gov-

ernment. He said he left government in

municipal government.

'democratic group.'

Qiao as head of the congress.

DISSENT: Pro-Democracy Voice in China

eligible to be chosen by the assembly, and it was not clear how she could succeed Mr. Suharto. Nor was it clear how seriously she intended to push forward with her declaration of readiness to lead the nation.

If Mr. Suharto were to step aside, his successor would more likely come from within his government's power struc-ture, including the politically influential

■ No Succession Scenario

Keith B. Richburg of The Washington Post reported:

Suharto, 76, has reversed Indonesia's economic decline, unifying the counleader of our nation and people - if this try's 300-plus ethnic groups and raising per-capita income from \$55 to \$900. He has won plaudits from other countries and from the World Bank for easing

To reconstruct his country, Mr. Subarto relied primarily on Indonesia's ethnic Chinese business elite who, almuch as politics. In March, Mr. Suharto though they make up just 3 percent of the protect their own business interests. population, control the vast majority of its wealth as well as have access to overseas Chinese capital in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and

Among those who benefited from the subsequent boom were Mr. Suharto's six children, all millionaires, whose enter-But this was the first time she had put prises range from cars, petrochemicals and toll roads to banks, airlines, taxicabs and telecommunications.

Now with Indonesia's economy in a tailspin - its foreign debt mounting and bankruptcies, unemployment and infla-Jakarta in decades.

Mrs. Megawati is not legally the leader of a political party and is therefore not his political touch.

tion all set to rise — many Indonesians are asking whether Mr. Subarto has lost his political touch.

the continued dominance of the Com-



In three decades in power, Mr. Mrs. Megawati calling on Mr. Suharto to retire, in her favor, in March.

"The old man," as he is commonly called, is the world's longest serving leader after Fidel Castro. Never much of a public speaker, the enigmatic Mr. Suharto increasingly is described as aloof, ailing, out of touch, unable to grasp the severity of the crisis and surrounded by close family members and friends whose advice mainly serves to Since independence, Indonesians

have experienced only one change of leadership, in 1965, and many now fear a repeat: a chaotic, prolonged and bloody power struggle, with the armed forces as the central player.

Mr. Suharto, a traditional Asian autocrat who tolerates no dissent, has never groomed a successor and has concentrated power so much in his own hands that few can imagine any scenario with-

'That's one of the troubling things about Indonesia — the complete absence of any credible succession sce-narios," said a Western diplomat based

In addition to Mrs. Megawati, a small group of retired military officers, a former cabinet minister and a leading political scientist and commentator have made unusual poblic statements urging Mr. Suharto not to seek another term. Although he has made no statement

about his intentions, an Indonesian newspaper quoted his half-brother, Probosutedjo, on Saturday as saying that the president would retire once a suitable successor was found.

"I am sure he has no intention of remaining the national leader forever. the newspaper, Kompas, quoted Mr.

Probosutedio as saying.
But many academics, diplomats and longtime Indonesia-watchers question whether Mr. Suharto has any intention of stepping aside. Some say that quitting is simply not the old general's style, that he would prefer to die in office.

Others say that even if he wanted to quit, he would find resistance among his family members and cronies who would stand to lose their lucrative monopolies and their vast fortunes.

Tens of Thousands Left Homelands Comments of the Comments of Homeless in China Quake

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputches

NANTAN, China - The government Sunday rushed tents, medicine, food and clothing to villages flattened by a powerful earthquake in the north that killed at least 50 people and left tens of thousands homeless in the bitter winter cold.

Xinhua, the state-run news agency, put the number of people injured Saturday at 11,439, with 1,252 of those seriously hurt

The earthquake, measuring 6.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, struck between Zhangbei and Shangyi on the border of Hebei and Nei Monggol provinces beaving many than 44 2000 and beautiful the struck of the struck inces, leaving more than 44,000 people homeless and shaking buildings 250 ki-lometers (150 miles) to the south in Beijing, Xinhuz said. Shangyi lies north of the patchwork of fortifications that form the Great Wall of China.

The quake toppled tens of thousands of buildings across two counties in the Yan mountains.

In Nantan, one of scores of villages affected, farmers terrified that their damaged earth-and-brick homes would collapse spent the night huddled under hastily erected lean-tos.

We had no choice but to sleep outside. If there's another quake, my house could fall down," said a farmer whose family of six slept in their garden with-out a fire or stove in below-freezing

temperatures.
Nighttime temperatures plunged to minus 20 degrees centigrade (minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit), Xinhua said. Thestate-run China Youth Daily quoted a local official as saying that frostbite and colds were expected. "We need a lot of tents," he added.

Throughout Sunday, convoys of trucks, vans and buses carried relief supplies to the stricken area. Aid delivered or on its way included 1,200 tents, 21,085 overcoats and quilts, food and medicine,

threat to the world's sole remaining su-

perpower, the newspaper said.
The United States is certainly not

moting the U.S. economic and political

model and easing East Asia's threat to

United States was promoting the authority of the IMF — to which it is the

largest single contributor - in the East

Asian crisis to advance its own strategic

The depoty prime minister of Thai-land, Supachai Panitchpakdi, recently criticized the United States for not con-

tributing directly to the IMF's \$17-bil-

lion loan package for Thailand - a

Still, some East Asian leaders appear

confident the region's economic hard-

ships will not result in lasting damage to

know that our interests are linked up

with theirs," said Lee Kuan Yew, Singa-

pore's senior minister, in an interview

with the Taiwan oewspaper China

Times that appeared last week.
"We need a strong America to

provide stability. We give them access to

our bases - which is oot unimportant

for the maintenance of stability, not jost

in the region, but also in Gulf where the

oil is. So, behind the froth are deep

sooght to export their way out of dif-

ing cuts and greater efficiency. The or-ganization is based in Geneva, with re-

American officials lobbied the Jap-

anese to withdraw their support from

Mr. Nakajima. In April, Mr. Nakajima

announced that he would not seek an-

as well as in the developing world. She has been seen as a hard-working director

international conference on populatioo

Other candidates are George Alleyne, a doctor from Barbados who is now

director of the Pan American Health

Organization in Washington; Fernando

Antezana of Brazil, a deputy director of the organization; Ebrahim Malick

gional branches around the world.

strategic common interests."

"At the end of the day, Americans

relations with the United States.

The People's Daily said that the

the U.S. economy.

Xinhua said. Military units in Beijing sent four helicopters to airlift 30 tons of food to the area, state-run television reported. At one hospital in Zhangbei, near the

epicenter, injured people lay motionless in beds or sat booked up to drips in corridors. A doctor at the hospital, which took in 102 patients, said people were squashed by falling debris, burned by fires triggered by the quake and scalded by stoves. The quake struck at 11:50-A.M. (0350 GMT), when many people.

were indoors preparing lunch.

Aftersbocks — more than 200 as of Sunday evening — also rattled the area, with the strongest reaching magnitude
4.6, the State Seismological Bureau said.
It predicted that there would be no more major quakes and that Beijing would not

China suffered its worst earthquake in modern history in 1976. Measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, it leveled the northern city of Tangshan, killing at least 240,000 people. (AP, WP)

In the form

The bar the fonds

Combined Renders

BRIEFLY

Hun Sen Sets Out Cease-Fire Terms

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian leader Hun Sen laid down official terms Sunday for a ceasefire between Phnom Penh's forces and those supporting his deposed co-prime minister, Prince Norodom

The three conditions were contained in a statement issued last Tuesday by the powerful second prime minister's cabinet. They were that the prince withdraw orders to his troops to fight, nullify appointments he made setting up the resistance army and sever relations with the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Hun Sen also offered Sunday that soldiers enlisted in the army who are fighting for the resistance would be allowed to return to their former positions with no loss of rank, salary or benefits, and receive back pay.

The prince reportedly said Sat-urday that he was prepared to order his troops to stop fighting if Mr. Hun Sen simultaneously issued the

Sam Rainsy, an ally of Prince Ranariddh, said the prince supported such a move, which "should naturally and immediately lead to the opening of peace talks between the two factions."

(APF)

Gandhi's Widow Stumps for Party

SRIPERUMBUDUR, India -The widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi denied here Sunday that she hoped to become prime minister as she hegan campaigning for the first time for the Congress (I) Party, to which he husband be-

Sonia Gandhi, 51, surrounded by hundreds of security commandos at the site where Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991, told 20,000 supporters she did oot want to become prime minister.

General elections are due to be held between Feh. 16 and March 7 after the collapse of a coalitioo government in November. (AFP)

Queensland Town

BRISBANE, Australia -- As

fell in 24 hours in the worst-hit area of Townsville in northeastern Australia, with an additional 10 centimeters forecast overnight. The rain that fell in one day is equivalent to half of the city's average annual

BANGKOK - The Thai Army has joined the battle against the country's economic crisis, organizing a festival in downtown Bangkok to encourage people to contribute to government eoffers.

lished last month by a Buddhist monk worried about the country's financial woes.

For the Record

Four people were hurt in a bomb blast near the U.S. Consulate

22 Shiite Muslims Killed in Pakistan

killed at least 22 Shiite Muslims and wounded 51 others at a religious service here Sunday in what Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif said could have been an act by "foreign

The killings occurred at a morning service in an old cemetery in central Lahore, capital of the central province of Punjab and home city of Mr. Sharif. Officials said it was the deadliest such attack in recent months in Punjab, which has been plagued by fighting between mil-itant Shiftes and the majority Sun-

State television quoted the prime minister as denouncing the incident and saying, "The involvement of foreign hands cannot be ruled

He did not specify which foreigners could have been involved, but Pakistani officials have often accused oeighboring India of sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan to avenge its support for Moslim mil-itants fighting Indian rule in the Kashmir region.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But Tauqir Hussain, a local Shiite leader, blamed Sunni militants. No comment from the Sunnis was avail-

The Mominpura cemetery, where the attack took place, had only one entrance, and there was no escape route for the Shiites who had been there for prayers for the dead.

Quoting Shiite witnesses, Mr. Hussain said three men with assault rifles shot at about 150 people assembled at the graveyard for three to four minutes before fleeing.

al choice: should China stand oo the side of the ranks of world freedom and democracy, which represent the direction

INTERNATIONAL

Asian nations now pose an economic

"I think the IMF cure would have offering a new Marshall Plan to East been very good if it was applied three Asia," it said. "By giving help, it is years ago," Mr. Kissinger said. "But we forcing East Asia into submission, prohave to be careful the economic realities don't lead to a wave of nationalism and eventually anti-Americanism in which the cure is worse than the disease.'

Mr. Kissinger said that the danger was particularly acute in South Korea, where "very virulent" nationalism formed a strong undercurrent. "We have to he careful that we are not using this op-portunity to recolonize Korea," he said. 'I am oot saying we are doing this, but it

ters reported from Kuala Lumpur.

The tour will also take Mr. Cohen to Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Ja-

ington and Wall Street."

BLAME: Backlash Against U.S. Is Feared

pan and South Korea for security talks. The

Some wonder out loud if behind the IMF, the United States is not really call-

ister of Malaysia, Mahathir bin Mohamad, said recently that his government would not turn to the IMF for financial support because "we would oot able to control our economy and would throw it Asia would test American commitment open to foreign domination," by allow- to the region as East Asian countries ing overseas interests free access to come in and buy our banks and compa-

defense secretary, William Cohen, gave criticism that The Nation, the second an assurance that America would be a largest English-language daily in steady ally 'in good times and bad,' but Bangkok, said reflected to 'strong re-

large U.S. military presence in the region is based mainly in Japan and South Korea.

nies at cheap prices."

"Almost certainly, the much cheaper
The People's Daily said recently that a
major geopolitical shift was taking place
between the United States and Asian

"Almost certainly, the much cheaper
cost of Asian imports into the United
States will produce another wave of isolationist calls from the U.S. Congress for

Continued from Page 1

Korea and Thailand.

ing the shots," he said. Reflecting that view, the prime min-

dollar bailout loans to Indonesia, South

could be perceived that way."

Arriving in Malaysia on Sunday at the start of an East Asian tour, the U.S.

he stressed that reforms were needed to end the region's economic crisis, Reu-

Mr. Hitchcock, oow a senior associate with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that Asians are wonried that their economies are "slipping out of their control and into the hands of London, Wash-

countries. Allies in the Cold War, East additional protection," he said.

But Paul Dibb, a former senior Aus-Floods Devastate tralian defense official who now heads the Strategic and Defense Studies Center at the Australian National University in Canberra, said that economic turmoil in

many as 20 people were reported missing and hundreds of homes were floaded Sunday after torrential rain devastated a city in the state of Queensland, prompting the govern-ment to declare a state of emer-

gency.
More than 55 centimeters of rain

Self-Help for Thais

As many as 8,000 people turned out early Sunday for the biggest mass event so far in support of the Thai-Help-Thai campaign, estab-

People are being asked to give what they can to the Treasury, and trade in hard currency for Thai baht to increase the official foreign re-

Thousands of Asians are lodging bogus applications for refugee status in order to work in Australia, the government said Sun-

in Madras, India. on Saturday, the

munist Party by people over the age of 70, Mr. Fang is the only one who claims to as well as the failure of the party to Reuters LAHORE, Pakistan — Gunmen undertake political or democratic reforms.

government officials and Communist The party, which holds its congresses Party members. He says that a couple of every five years, had failed to adapt to every five years, had failed to adapt to changes since the end of the Cold War. officials, most of them at "upper-middle" levels, have participated in informal discussions over a period of time.

Mr. Fang said he was oot a party member, having turned down invitations to lead the strong time and his fellow leaders, "is lagging behind the world and history."

The nine-page platform of proposals says "the key to China becoming a modern country is to take first steps toward democracy. The group advocated the separation of the Communist Party from township and county governments and "then gradually, but not slowly, push the separation of party and government to higher levels

of government and eventually to the In 1995, he went into husiness with entire system of government." This proposal resembles one put forward at the Communist Party congress in part because he sought a more inde- 1987, although the idea was dropped soon pendent status from which to express his after that party meeting and was not raised

riews and the views of what he called a at the party meetings in 1992 or 1997. democratic group."

On the economy, the document calls
Mr. Fang's decision to talk openly for an end to subsidies to state-owned about the essay, which was written Nov. enterprises and an end to monopolies for 20, comes less than two months before state-owned eoterprises in certain areas. the start of the National People's Con-It suggests giving equal treatment to foreign investors and domestic ones, algress, where some analysts expect a lowing foreign capital access to service struggle between relatively liberal delegates protected by the coogress' outgoing chairman, Qiao Shi, and Prime Minister Li Peog, who will step down from his current post and replace Mr. sectors, ending conditions that force foreign firms to transfer technology, drop protectionist rules, and stop the "unfair practice of selecting foreign cooperation parmers on the basis of political stan-

dards or other coneconomic factors."

Mr. Fang, however, says that nothing unusual will emerge from the congress The essay also advocates freedom of and adds that the first opportunity for significant democratic reforms could expressioo and the recognitioo that "all viable theories must accept equal instill be two years or more away. There tellectual competition." The platform also endorses a flexible

have been some indications that the approach to dealing with Hong Kong, Tibet and Taiwan. It suggests wide au-tonomy, though not full independence, for Chinese government intends to expand the current "experiment" with rural elections to country level governments. but thousands of senior government posts are still controlled by the top of-ficials of the Communist Party. Tibet. It says that diplomatic and military affairs should remain in Beijing's hands. It also says China should improve its

Mr. Fang, who runs a trading company that deals mostly in office supplies, said

relations with Japan and the United that the effort to outline an alternative "In revising its foreign policy," it and mainstream of our time, or should it platform grew out of disappointment with says, "China should make a fundament-stand on the opposite side?"

Revenge Killing in Ulster

BELFAST - The hard-line Loyalist Volunteer Force, a pro-British guerrilla group, took responsibility Sunday for the killing of a Belfast nightclub door-

response for the recent murder in the Maze prison of its leader, Billy Wright. 'The Loyalist Volunteer Force is not

entrance to a nightclub in the capital of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

days after Christmas. ish government in Northern Ireland and Britain must not allow dissidents behind has rejected the peace process there. the upsurge in violence to dictate the Talks 00 the future of the province pace of peacemaking efforts.

were due to resume Monday.

Mr. Adams' comforted his niece,

Mr. Adams, shot five times by Prot-estant extremists in 1984, made no immediate comment. But his press aide, Richard McAuley, said that few people would have known of the Enwright-Adams connection and that the gunmen

Catholic.

burned in Protestant east Belfast. lawed Ulster Volunteer Force and spent munity worker married to the niece of eight years in prison after being caught with explosives, has argued that nobody should resume their campaign of terror against the north's Catholic minority.

The Loyalist Volunteer Force is Prime Tony Blair, who is visiting fiercely committed to continued Brit-Mr. Blair said.

Aged Bug Is Said To Bug Papal Visit

Compiled by Our Sadj From Dispatches

MADRID — The Vatican threatened to reconsider Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba after a bugging device was discovered in a parish house where he is scheduled to stay, a Spanish newspaper reported. Vatican aides found the hidden microphone in October as they prepared for the Pope's visit on Jan. 21-

ican officials as saying. Joaquin Nav-arro-Valls, the Vancan spokesman, refused to comment on the report. Cuban officials, the paper said, admitted that the microphone might have been in the house, but said it must have dated to the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who was over-

thrown by Fidel Castro in 1959.

Experts who examined the mi-

crophone said that although it was

25, El Pais quoted unidentified Vat-

an unsophisticated device, they did not believe it was that old, El Pais (AP. Reuters) "We cannot get into a situation where, if people are committing murders, then that means somehow you damage the underlying process itself,"

WHO to Elect New Director 2 Women Lead 7 Candidates Seeking Top UN Health Post

policies and his setting of priorities in By Barbara Crossette health programs.

Recently, Congress has also focused on the organization's budget, demand-

New York Times Service · UNITED NATIONS, New York — In the most important election in the UN system since the choice of a new secretary-general in 1996, the World Health Organization will replace its directorgeneral later this month. The campaign has been intense, with seven candidates

Among the candidates competing to

in the running.

lead it are a former prime minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland, and the head of the UN Population Fund, Nafis porters in the United States and Europe Sadik of Pakistan. Both are physicians by training, as are the other candidates. Mrs. Brundtland, who studied public of UN family-planning efforts and the health at Harvard University before entering politics, is thought to be the fa-vorite of the United States, although held in Cairo in 1994. officials in Washington are not making any endorsements. U.S. popularity is generally at an ebb at the United Nations.

and Washington is oot currently a mem-ber of WHO's 32-member board, which elects its leader to a five-year term. Washingtoo has been very critical of Samba, a Gamhian and the organizathe departing director-general, Hiroshi
Nakajima of Japan, whose election it
twice tried to block. Mr. Nakajima, ditwice tried to block. Mr. Nakajima, director-general for 10 years, has been Southeast Asia, and Arif Batayneh, (Reuters, AP) under constant fire for his personnel former minister of health in Jordan,

Protestant Unit Shoots a Relative of Adams In a statement issued to the press, the group said the shooting was in direct

against peace, but not peace at any price," the statement said. The police said earlier that Terence Enwright, 28, was killed during the night wheo gunmen opened fire on staff at the

Mr. Enwright was a Catholic com-Gerry Adams, leader of the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein. He was the third Roman Catholic to be

Deirdre Enwright, and her two young children at their home in Catholic west

appeared to have shot at all the nightclub's bouncers, who were all

The attackers' car was later found

David Ervine, who leads the Progressive Unionist Party, represents the outkilled in retaliation for Mr. Wright's Many grass-root members think that the killing by an IRA splinter group two negotiations are weighted in favor of Sinn Fein

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EUROPE

in China Quake Jospin Evicts Jobless Protesters in France

By Craig R. Whitney New York Times Service

emergency funds for the worst hit of France's 3.1 million unemployed workers, the French prime minister a year. ordered the police to eject johless protesters from public offices they had occupied since last month to press demands for higher benefits.

Riot police swooped down Saturday oo more than 20 welfare and labor offices across the country and carried out protesters who had been in some of them since Dec. 15.

"I said yesterday was a significant step forward," said Charles Hoareau. one of the leaders of the protest movement in Marseilles. "I was had."

The police moved into the eight occupied offices in and around the Mediterranean port the day after Li-

have been unemployed for more than ror." The mix of conciliation and firm-

ness took the government's Commonist and Green coalition partners by surprise and probably ended the honeymoon Mr. Jospin has enjoyed with public opinion since his election June

Confederation of Labor, which had objected to Mr. Jospin's decision to receive leaders of groups representing the unemployed protesters in his office Thursday, issued a statement publicly condemning "carrot and

The Communist-led union General

Alam Boquet, the Communist floor

ister, said the government would town near Arras, where protesters oc- the budget deficit so France could join make I billion francs (\$165 million) cupied a welfare office for nearly a the European common currency that is PARIS — A day after promising available for the worst-off of jobless month, called the expulsioos Saturday planned to start next year, supporting workers, more than a millioo of whom "a humanly and politically grave er-

> Mr. Jospin said nothing Saturday, but indicated after announcing the extra payments Friday that he expected the occupation of government offices to end.

About a thousand people demonstrated in Bordeaux on Saturday afternoon, vowing to continue pressure on the government, while union and unemployed groups' leaders called a national demonstration in Paris on

Mr. Jospin's leftist majority ousted President Jacques Chirac's conservaafter a campaign promising to make jobs their highest priority. But once in Nantes.

onel Jospin, the Socialist prime min-leader in Parliament and mayor of a power, Mr. Jospin continued cutting legislation to reduce the workweek to 35 from 39 hours but putting it off for most workers until the next decade.

The unemployed rose up in frustratioo in December, demanding payment of a year-end bonus of 3,000 francs and higher benefits. Mr. Jospin said Friday that raising them would have cost several tens of billions of francs and unsettled the economy.

■ Protests Continue in 5 Cities

Jobless demonstrators maintained sit-ins in five cities Sunday, The Associated Press reported. The protests persisted at the Chamber of Comtives from power in Parliament in June merce and Industry offices in Cherbourg, Metz, Guingamp, Lyon and



A banner at an office in Lyon that reads "Against Unemployment: Occupation."

Edding a kg BRIEFLY

Bonn Said to Agree On Holocaust Fund

BONN - The German government bas reached agreement with Jewish groups to pay a total of 200 millioo Dentsche marks in compensacon to Holocaust survivors in the former Eastern bloc, the daily Tagesspiegel reported.

The newspaper quoted sources in Bonn as saying that the deal was reached in talks last week between Jewish representatives and the German chancellery minister, Friedrich Bohl. Yearly payments of 50 million marks (\$27.4 million) will be made, and distributed among about 18,000 survivors of death camps and ghettos,

the paper said Saturday.

Government sources said Bonn would make an official statement oo the issue oo Monday. A government spokesman declined to comment. The Jewish Claims Conference was unavailable for comment.

Greek Aide Defends Controls on Borders

ATHENS - Greece is doing everything it can to stop the flow of Kurdisb refugees, the minister of pub-lic order, Georges Romaios, said Sun-

said after the German interior minister, Manfred Kanther, asserted that Greece

was failing to patrol its ports.

Mr. Romaios placed the hlame on Turkey, saying said he spoken with Mr. Kanther and "stressed that in 1997, 62 Turks smuggling illegal immigrants bad been arrested in Greece." He also said controls along the Greek coast would be increased with oew patrol boats equipped with

Judge in Canaries Jails Cult Leader

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Canary Islands — A Spanisb judge had ordered a German cult leader to be held without bail following her arrest on suspicion of organizing a mass suicide.

Judge Juan Luis Lorenzo Bragado questioned the suspect, Heide Fittkau-Garthe, 57, for five bours before issuing the order Saturday, the EFE news agency said. She is charged with induction to spicide, attempted murder and belonging to an illegal group.

She was arrested Wednesday and accosed of planning to induce the 31 members of the cult, all but one Germans, to kill themselves before 8 P.M. on Thursday, when they believed the world would end. The followers, who included five children, told the police that they had expected a spaceship to Germans 'must know that their bor-ders are not as secure as they seem,' he Mountain on Tenerife, (AP)

Last Serb Enclave Is in Suspense as Croats Return

By Christine Spolar Washington Past Service

VUKOVAR, Croatia - In a dark café here, a man and a woman clink turnhlers of hrandy. They speak funively, brows close and eyes lowered, as if, on an icy wioter night, they are snatching forbidden pleasure.

In fact, these two divorced 40somethings are toasting old friendship. But he is a Croat and she is a Serb, and in this city of fear, that bond comes close enough to an illicit one.

"People are waiting to see what will happen here," said the woman, Mirjana Ivanovic, looking out a window onto a landscape of broken bricks, twisted lampposts and shattered tiles. "Everybody really thought this would oever go back to Croatia. Now we're just waiting to see how it will be."

On Thursday, another wedge of the Balkan peace package, two years in the making, will fall into place. The last Serb-held enclave in Croatia - a ravaged stretch of territory along the Serbian border known as Eastern Slavonia - will leave the hands of the UN authorities and return to the Croatian government.

In some quarters, oerves are tant. Bot this historic changeover is moving ahead so far, day by day, with no embinered wave of departing refugees.

Anonymous phone threats are reported, yet relatively few incidents of violence have been recorded, most prominently two grenade attacks against ethnic Serbs. Passions or even the notion of retaliation appear curbed by dogged preparations to close this neither Croats nor Serhs will feel safe

drawn-out chapter of the Balkan war. People appear to be welcoming back their neighbors," one international aid worker said cautiously last week. "More than we expected, people appear to be thinking for themselves - and

taking things a day at a time." There were plenty of reasons to fear how Serbs and Croats would greet the turnover.

East of Zagreb, whole villages of bullet-ridden farmhouses bear testament to Serbian territorial amhitions in 1991. Vukovar, a once-graceful, bustling city perched on a bank of the Danube, stands in particular as a rotting

symbol of the split-up of Yugoslavia. Vukovar, a city of Serbs, Croats, Hungarians and other nationalities, was nearly flattened in a siege that autumn by the Yugoslav military. The furious battle added confirmation that the Yngoslav Army was openly fighting for territory where Serbs live outside Ser-

After years of hitterness, reveoge came, In 1995, Croatian soldiers, fueled with hardware and trained by U.S. military retirees, retook the territory west and south of here, critical gains that crippled Serbian ambitions. An advance on Eastern Slavonia — in a region already teeming with Serbian refugees

— was staved off by diplomatic efforts.

An agreement to restore the regionwas devised late in 1995, just as a peace accord for neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina was devised.

Transition has not proved easy. Local politicians, even in the weeks leading up to the changeover, have argued that without United Nations cootrol. But rumors and fears are giving way

10 realities. Conflicts between old neighbors, for oow, may be limited simply by the low oumber of returnees who have come or want to come home to crumbled cities like Vukovar.

Vojislav Stanimirovic, leader of a moderate Serbian faction here, estimated this week that fewer than 100 Croats have come home to this regional center where 55,000 people ooce lived.

Some, gone for more than six years, have left for good. Other likely returnees drive into Vukovar, only to turn around when they see the bleak prospects. Every factory and nearly every storefront here was reduced to, and remains, rubble. Jobs, except in the openair market or in a few government offices, are nonexistent.

T've never seen anything like this," said Mirjana Zemlic, a Croat who came to Vukovar one day from the nearby town of Beli Manastir. The politicians can say what they want, but if people have nothing to do here, why would they come back?"

But some sense of calm, in fact, comes from those trying to look to the future. The Croatian government and communities here, so far, have followed through on promises to establish police, judiciary and school systems that reflect prewar population splits and, in the last year, voter sectiment.

The regional police force is split nearly in balf between Serbian and Croatian officers. Judicial appointments have been divvied up between the Serbian and Croatian legal authorities. Schoolbooks are to be available in both the Cyrillic script used by Serbs and the

Latin script used by Croats.
UN officials are holding their breath about the possibility of a smooth transfer, saying that many of the 120,000 Serbs in the region still live in Eastern Slavonia.

They, like many others, are waiting to see if the Croaman government lives up to its promises after the much-heralded transfer date - and if their erstwhile

Croat neighbors will return. Ivan Frank, 76, was among native Croats caught in the Serbian onslaught. He and his Serbian wife huddled in the basement of their apartment building

when it was assaulted with monars. After the city fell, he was sent to prison in Serbia, only to be released a month later. For the next six years he lived on the island of Hvar, off the Croatian coast, in a hotel filled with

other refugees. A few weeks ago, Mr. Frank returned to Vukovar as the first official new resident of his housing block, which had

been repaired with European reconstruction funds. But there remain many holes in his life. He lost his only son in the war. He

and his wife have been separated since that early siege, and she now lives in Australia. Now the two communicate hy phone and letter. She is too frightened to consider com-

ing back. In his old age, Mr. Frank said, he is too worn to contemplate taking on life in a faraway country, even though be has few friends left.

"Oh, I don't blame her," he said quietly of his wife, "I only feel pity. What we've all been through."

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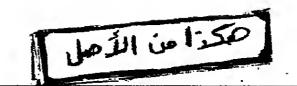
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INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Now Warms to Iranian President's Proposal of Cultural Exchanges

By Steven Erlanger New York Times Service

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WASHINGTON - After a few days of reflection on the address to the American people by President Mohammed Khatami of Iran, senior American officials are changing their tone and embracing the idea of cultural exchanges that fall short of a formal, government-to-government

Bot that formal dialogue is vital to any real improvement in relations with Iran, the officials repeated, adding that atmosphere also matters.

Noting that the interview with Mr. Khatami last week was also broadcast in Iran and received a mixed reception, American officials say they have a fuller understanding both of the courage of his address and what is possible within the divided politics of theocratic Iran.

When the president of Iran, a country with

behooves us to respond," a senior American official said.

"When he says he regrets the hostage-taking and talks about America as a great civilization and these things get criticized in Iran," the of-ficial continued, "it is an indication to os that he's interested in breaking down this distrust and finding a way to engage with us."

All that "is important on a thetorical level," the official said.

But he cautioned that "we have some real problems with Iranian behavior" that can only be resolved in "authorized, government-to-government talks" of the kind Washington has been seeking - publicly and privately, through various diplomatic channels — for months.

U.S. diplomatic overtures for new talks on the substantive problems of the relationship were

ican people and starts praising our values and our Angeles Times reported in July, before Mr. talks that harm U.S. efforts to isolate Iran and soften Iran's religious fervor and encourage the civilization and talks about a dialogue, then it Khatami took office.

Another overture, sometime after his inauguration, was made in a letter delivered by the Swiss, who represent U.S. interests in Tehran, Ruhin, says the United States will "take a sewhere there is no American diplomatic representation, The Washington Post reported.

But these overtures — and less-formal efforts made through research groups based in Washingtoo - produced little at the time, officials

"A real improvement in Iran's behavior and relations with the United States will depend more on domestic poliocal change in Tehran than anything we do or say," a senior official said. And what we do or say will have an exaggerated impact over there. There is a real risk in saying. too much and doing in the guy who's trying to not to cause any inadvertent damage to his standmake things better.

So the State Department spokesman, James rious, hard look" at Mr. Khatami's vague proposal for a more formalized expansion of cultural and educational exchanges.

But limited informal exchanges already exist, Mr. Rubin said, and what matters to Washington remains now what it was last week; a halt in Iran's support for terrorism; a halt to its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic misweapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles to deliver them and a halt in its active support for radicals opposed to the Middle East sues on the table "and "no preconditions." Mr support for radicals opposed to the Middle East peace effort.

The U.S. response to Mr. Khatami is designed mg in Iran -- but without appearing to take sides While wanting to be receptive to the overture in the struggle between conservative adherents of

produce no discernible change in Tehran's be- trend toward the more moderate brand of Island he appears to represent.

■ U.S. Confirms Start of Visa Review

The United States confirmed Sunday that was beginning a review of the tight restrictions of issuing visas to Iranian nadonals, the loterna tional Herald Tribune reported.

At the same time, Samuel Berger, Presiden Bill Clintoo's ontional security adviser, repeate that the administration's interest was in a direct Berger said on CNN.

He would not say how long the U.S. review of visas for Iranians might take.

He also declined to confirm reports that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had sent Mig whom we've had a very bad relationship for a passed to Iranian officials in Tehran by Sandi from Mr. Khatami, American officials do not Iran's spiritual leader, Ayanollah Sayed Ali Khatami a letter shortly after his election offering want to be "bounced," one said, into aimless Khamenei, and those who look to Mr. Khatami to to open a dialogue.

The Very Famous Women in His Life Fiancée and Boss Make U.S. State Dept. Aide a Star, of Sorts

By Melinda Henneberger New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - When James Rohin, the U.S. State Department's chief spokesman, got word that CNN had refused to provide an advance copy of its interview last week with the Iranian president, he lost patience.

'Oh, really? Who says?" be asked one of his deputies, and threatened to start dialing CNN editors himself,

dozeo foreign-policy experts were waitings on cable and apparently thrill to his ing their turn to prepare him for the noon pronouncements on Iraq and China. briefing, mentioned what every con--sumer of Washington gossip knows: Mr. government's official response, could pour. Last month, on his knees on a cluded. beach in Tobago, he asked her to marry

In a city rife with examples of power couples whose small worlds - in this case, the world - are pretty contiguous real estate, the simulation was generally regarded as more awkward than improper — and a matter of particular interest to the many Washington couples whose similarly tangled relationships are not the subtext of TV news.

"It's just something to tease Jamie unmercifully about," said Michael Mc-Curry, presidential spokesman and former State Department spokesman. 'And it's like Jamie to have a relaconship people talk about."

Even more than Ms. Amanpour, his boss, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the other woman in his life, has -made the 37-year-old Mr. Rubin something of a Washingtoo personal-

edgy New Yorker, paring, illegally head," she declared. smoking at his desk, moving fast but

And well before Mr. Rubin began ington insider. He is hardly an overnight He has a notably close and complicated an American aircraft carrier.

lations Committee and the United Nations, where he went to work for Mrs. tions.

weaponry is on George magazine's list extreme, he is widely credited with a of Washington's best-dressed men. He receives a steady trickle of mash notes No one in the room, where about a from women who warch his daily brief-

"It's ironic that I should be getting engaged at just the moment when I'm Ruhin, close adviser to the secretary of becoming . . . "Mr. Rubin paused for an state and the man who would deliver the uncharacteristically long time, presumably searching for some modest way to easily phone the reporter who got the describe his enhanced status. "... A interview, CNN's Christiane Amanmore eligible bachelor," he finally con-

As they join the ranks of the prominently entangled, Mr. Ruhin and Ms. Amanpour, one of the world's bestknown foreign reporters, join such couples as the Federal Reserve Board's Alan Greenspan and NBC's Andrea Mitchell, and the Republican Mary Matalin and the Democrat James Carville, who as perpetually opposing pundits have turned their conflicting world views into a money-making ven-

The future bride, who is 40, once took on the man who is oow her fiance's boss'a boss over what she called his "constant flip-flops" on Bosnia. During a 1994 town meeting, President Bill Clinton snapped, "There have been no constant flip-flops, madam," - and

success here, having spent his entire relationship with his boss, and in his dual adult life in foreign affairs, learning the roles as assistant secretary of state for issues and the players to jobs at the Arms public affairs and adviser to Mrs. Al-Control Association, Senate Foreign Rebright, counsels her on everything from geopolitics to potential fashion viola-

Albright in 1993.

But suddenly, a guy known mainly for mastery of such unsexy topics as onclear true to an extent. Press savvy in the major role in making Mrs. Albright the news media star she is, though those in her keenly sensitive inner circle yelp at the implication that she needed any

Certainly, their fortunes are almost inextricably linked. And Mr. Rubin's relationship with the secretary of state has both protected him and made him a

He reflects her, and she is in very high standing and he is in very high standing - and when he goofs np, he gets forgiven," said Mr. McCarry, referring to a recent incident that for a short time appeared to threaten Mr. Rnbm's job.

That incident illustrates the ease with which an ill-chosen word from a State Department spokesman can create a mess of world-wide proportions: During a December trip to the Middle East, Mr. Robin told reporters that the United States was considering expanding the amount of food and medicine Iraq can buy with oil. Critics call this human-itarian program an easing of sanctions, and was also with oil that was also with a sale whether Mr. Rubin could be considered a "policy stylist" — a suggestion he himself has oot only agreed with but declared "kind of bot American officials insist it strengthens the sanctions by robbing ers - his "clients," as he calls them -Saddam Hussein of the argument that children are starving because of the em-

later apologized.

In the briefing, a reporter pushed Mr. from reporters for less prestigious news

Ms. Amanpour says that nothing had changed for her professionally because of the engagement. "Just because I've the proposed expansion was in fact "a the proposed expansion was in fact "a the proposed expansion was in fact the prop Though he is generally regarded as an fallen to love doesn't mean I've lost my carrot" for Mr. Saddam, and Mr. Rubin rose to the bait.

"It may be a little carrot," showing up late in his black leather seeing her last summer, his personal and answered, "but there's a big stick" jacket, Mr. Robin is nonetheless a Wash- professional lives already overlapped. floating toward the Gulf, a reference to



The definition of a power couple: CNN's Christiane Amanpour and the State Department's James Rubin.



Only the "little carrot" portion of the his access to Mrs. Albright. In a staff yourself back home on a Sunday with no quote was widely reported, Mr. Ruhin said, with no mention of the "stick." The remark was a clear poliocal hlunder, giving the impression that Mr. Clinton was negotiating with Mr. Saddam. Mr. him as partly maternal. Clinton was said to be furious, and Mrs. Certainly, she is fiere

Mr. Robin's relationships with reportseem a world better than when, as Mrs. Albright's spokesman at the United Nations, he was known to answer queries

the reporters who cover him, and though the recent attention, they also say he seems to have found the "little carrot" incideot a sobering experience.

meeting this week, they bantered comfortably and communicated to very few

Certainly, she is fiercely protective of filling.

'I guess that's meant derogatorily,' she said, clearly annoyed, and went on to praise him as "brilliant" in a variety of

both like to work hard and both consider watch her some more. it a treat to do foreign policy on a fulltime basis," she said.

some feel his ego has been inflated by Albright were good company for each the conversation. When asked if he had

gether by default.

plans and she'll say, Jamie, you want to go to the movies?' because there's words, speaking almost in code. More oobody else," he said. "You haven't than one colleague views her feelings for called anybody else in so long that you have nobody to call. It's self-ful-

Mrs. Albright has said that she is "elated" about Mr. Ruhin's pending ouptials, which are to take place this summer.

And at the end of the day his state spent chasing the transcript to Ms. Amanpour's interview in Iran — the finally got it through the White House, in late afternoon — he settled in to finally. We have a similar sense of humor, watch her on television, And, there

Talking to a reporter while viewing the replay of the interview, Mr. Ruhin's Mr. Rohin also said that he and Mrs. attention momentarily wandered from other, but sometimes spent off-hours to- been distracted by the televised image of his intended, he owned up.

"She didn't have a family and I didn't "Yeah," he said. 'I'm trying to see if Mostly, they praise his intellect, and have a personal life, and you'll find I can see the ring."

SEX SLAVERY: Slavic Lands Offer Traffickers a Rich Source

Continued from Page 1

will even be fined," she said softly, slow tears filling her enormous green eyes. You can call me a fool for coming here. That's my crime. I am stupid. A stupid girl from a little village. Bot can people really buy and sell women and get away with it? Sometimes I sit here and ask myself if that really happened to me, if it can really happen at all.

Then, waving her arm toward the muddy prison yard, where Russian is spoken more commonly than Hebrew, she whispered one last thought: "I'm not the only ooe, you know. They have runed as all.

Centered in Moscow and the Ukrainian capital. Kiev, the networks trafficking women run east to Japan and Thailand, where thousands of young Slavic women now work against their will as prostitutes, and west to the Adriatic Coast and beyond. The routes are controlled by Russian crime gangs based in

Even when they do not specifically move the women overseas, they provide security, logistical support, liaisoo with brothel owners in many countries and,

usually, false documents. Women often start their journey by choice. Seeking a better life, they are lured by local advertisements for good jobs in foreign countries at wages they could never imagine at home.

In Ukraine alone, the oumber of women who leave is staggering. As many as 400,000 women under 30 have gone in the last decade, according to their country's Interior Ministry. The Thai Embassy in Moscow, which processes visa applications from Russia and Ukraine, says it receives nearly 1,000 visa applications a day, most of them from

Israel is a fairly typical destination. Prostitution is not illegal here, although brothels are, and with 250,000 foreign male workers - most of whom are single or here without their wives - the demand is great. Police officials estimate that there are 25,000 paid sexual transactions every day. Brothels are ubi-

None of the women seem to realize the risks they run until it is too late. Once they cross the border their passports will be confiscated, their freedoms curtailed and what little money they have taken

something seems too good to be true it were sold into prostrution each year, he sometime seems too good to be the true was uncomfortable with statistics since usually is," said Lyndmilla Biryuk, a was uncomfortable with statistics since nobody involved has any reason to tell the truth

been released from bondage. "Bot you can't imagine what fear and real ig- said, "think about this. Two hundred norance can do to a person." The women are smoggled by car, bus,

boat and plane. Handed off in the dead of night, many are told they will pick or- sweatshops, domestic workers, mianges or work as dancers or waitresses. grants. Others have decided to try their luck at prosummion, usually for what they assume will be a few lucrative months. awaits them.

The efficient, economically brutal rontine - whether in Israel, or in one of It's happening now. Today." a dozen other countries - rarely varies.

and makeshift brothels; there they service, hy their own count, as many as 15 clients a day. Often they sleep in shifts, four to a bed. The best that most hope for is to be deported after the police finally

catch up with their captors.

Few ever testify. Those who do risk that grow more brazen each year. death. Last year in Istanbul, according to balcony while six of their Russian

friends watched. In Serbia, also last year, said a young Ukrainian woman who escaped in October, a woman who refused to work as a prostitute was beheaded in public.

In Milan, a week before Christmas, the police broke up a ring that was holding auctions in which women abducted from the countries of the former Soviet Union were put on blocks, partially naked, and sold at an average price of just under \$1,000.

head of operations for the UN's Center for International Crime Prevention, based in Vienna. "The Matia is not stupid. There is less law enforcement since the Soviet Union fell apart and more freedom of movement. The earnings are incredible. The overhead is low you don't have to buy cars and guns. Drugs you sell once and they are gone. Women can earn money for a long

"Also," he added, "the laws help the gangsters. Prostitution is semi-legal in many places and that makes enforcement tricky. In most cases punishment is

In some countries, Israel among them, there is not even a specific law against the sale of human beings. Mr. Platzer said that although cer-

"You want to tell these kids that if tainly "tens of thousands" of women

"But if you want to use oumbers," he million people are victims of contemporary forms of slavery. Most aren't prostitutes, of course, but children in

'During four centuries; 12 million people were believed to he involved in the slave trade hetween Africa and the They have no idea of the violence that New World. The 200 million - and many of course are women who are trafficked for sex - is a current figure.

Ukraine - and to a lesser degree its Women are held to apartments, bars Slavic neighbors Russia and Belarus has replaced Thailand and the Philippines as the epicenter of the global business in trafficking women. The Ukrainian problem has been worsened by a ravaged economy, an atrophied system of law enforcement and criminal gangs

Young European women are in de-Ukrainian police investigators, two mand, and Ukraine, a country of 51 women were thrown to their deaths from million people, has a seemingly endless supply. It is not that hard to see why.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine reports accurate unemployment statistics. Bnt even partial numbers present a clear story of chaos and economic dislocation. Federal employment statistics in Ukraine indicate that more than twothirds of the unemployed are women.

The government also keeps another statistic; employed hut not working.

Those are people who technically

have jobs and can use company amenities like day-care centers and hospitals. "This is happening wherever you Bot they do not work or get paid. Three-look now," said Michael Platzer, the quarters are womed. And of those who have lost their jobs

since the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, more than 80 percent are women. The average salary in Ukraine today is slightly less than \$30 a month, but it is half that in the small towns that criminal gangs favor for recruiting women to

work abroad. On average, there are 30

applicants for every job in most Ukrainian cities. There is no real hope; but there is freedom. In that climate, looking for work to foreign countries has increasingly be-

come a matter of survival. "It's no secret that the highest prices now go for the white women." Marco Buffo, executive director of On the Road, an anti-trafficking organizaand Asians at the top of the market.

Now it's the Ukrainians," Economics is not the only factor caus-There is also social reality. For the first selves.

Algerians Flee Villages as **Terror Grows**

SOUK EL HAD, Algeria — Traveling on foot, hy mule or by truck, dozens of terrorized families fled the western mountains Sunday, part of a mass exodus from the latest round of murderous atrocities.

Left behind them was a string of deserted hamlets, whose most fortunate residents joined the exodus. The rest had been killed in the worst frenzy of slanghter seen in Algeria since the Islamic fundamentalist insurgency began in 1992.

The independent press reported

over the weekend that a fresh wave of bombings, unofficial roadblocks and attacks on villages had killed 41 men, women and children to the west and south of Algiers.

The Ouarsenis mountain range, 250 kilometers (160 miles) west of the capital, was the main scene of the violence that since Dec. 30 the start of the Muslim holy mooth of Ramadan - has claimed at least 600 lives, according to the press. Sahnine, where 113 people had

Two Agence France-Presse journalists who arrived in the village Saturday only found human remains, graves and stray does. Several newspapers described

been massacred, was a ghost town.

the wave of violence as an attempt by Islamic extremists to divert military pressure on them in the center of the country. The Onarsenis attacks were at-

tributed to the main fundamentalist

organization, the Armed Islamic

Group. Commandos from the Armed Islamic Groop were believed to be exacting revenge on villages in an area controlled by a rival group, the Islamic Salvation Army, which declared a unilateral cease-fire Oct. 1.

time, young women in Ukraine and Russia have the right, the ability and the tion in northern Italy. "They are the novelty item now. It used to be Nigerians ents and their hometowns.

Village life is disintegrating throughout much of the former Soviet world, and youngsters are grahhing any ing women to flee their homelands, chance they can find to save them-

HAVE-NOTS: Europe's Rifts Surface

Continued from Page 1

sponding to precarionsness, exclusion and poverty. Governments of both the left and the right in the three countries have been reluctant to call attendon to the widening place of the poor in their

In Germany, where unemployment totals were reported Friday to have reached record postwar levels and Chancellor Helmnt Kohl acknowledged the failure of his pledge to cut johlessness in half by the year 2000, the European Union lists 13 percent of the population as living in poverty. And Catholic and Protestant charitable organizations reported last year that for every 100 welfare recipients the country had 167 "hid-

den poor.

In an election year, the issue of social justice in Germany could be at the heart of a campaign fought between conservatives and Social Democrats, both whipsawed by the monetary system's spending constraints, the oeed to lower taxes and reduce the cost of German labor, and the pressures of a population increasingly aware of and ill-at-ease with polarization between rich and

In Britain, the European Union says that 23 percent of the nation's housegrowth expected to tail off in 1998 to answers at hand. perhaps less than 2 percent, Prime Minister Tony Blair's intention to make futher reductions in welfare provisions is likely run into the hardened opposition of the left wing of the Labour Party. Already, some left-wingers have called Mr. Blair more of a Thatcherite than a social democrat.

But the conflict has broken through the surface in France. With its tradition of politics in the streets and change-byconfrontation. France appears a halfstride closer to having to deal frontally with the consequences of the restructuring policies that have undercut the 50vear-old notions of even-handed income distribution, leaving, by the EU's count, 16 percent of the country's honseholds

in poverty.
The French protesters have stressed that they feel they do not speak only for the 4.52 million people officially out of work, but for the 6 or 7 million they say are part of the have-not world. In calling for a 3,000 franc (\$500) year-end bonus for the unemployed, their demands underscored the unacceptability of lowered expectations in French society, an issue avoided by a political establishment unable as a bloc to convince a majority that it has the skills to create oew jobs and new perspectives for the disadvan

Prime Minister Lionel Joses signaled that he understood how far yond the normal grievance-and-coun teroffer exchanges the circumstance had gone hy promising a new approach to issues of poverty and exclusion by March, and in saying he realized how the pain of the protesters had been heightened by the divisions in French life made stark during the holiday sea-

But what his offers of additional cash did oot do — one newspaper calculated they corresponded to \$50 more per month per ucemployed person -- was to stop the protesters' refrain that they could not imagine there was no more money to be found in the pockets of the rich in a country that pridefully proin the world after the United States Japan and Germany. Mr. Jospin, the protestors said over the weekend, had offered them neither cash nor hope

enough. Give or take details, the Socialist prime minister's dilemma could easily. be in the laps of his European colleagues soon. A poll published Sunday in Lei Journal du Dimanche said that 77 perthat 23 percent of the nation's house-holds fall under the poverty line. With France thought he did not have the right

Rabbi Says Nostrils Get No Day of Rest

The Associated Press
JERUSALEM — A leading ultra-Orthodox rahhi in Israel has ruled that it is permitted to pick your nose on the Jewish Sahbath, his aide reported on Sun-

Rahhi Ovadia Yosef delivered the ruling Saturday night in a sermon relayed by satellite to his followers in Israel and The newspaper Yediot Ahronoth had

reported that Rahhi Yosef had said nose 4

picking was forbidden because tiny hairs inside the nostrils might also be pulled But his aide, Amir Crispel, said that Rabbi Yosefhad actually ruled that pick

ing ones nostrils was permitted. Rabbi Yosef is among a select group of rabbis who respond to questions from Jews — serious or otherwise — on the minutiae of applying Jewish law to dail

from them at once. ALT PALIA counseled women who have escaped or the truth.

EDITORIALS/OPINION :-

Herald international Cribune Four Kinds of Gas Stations, Four Kinds of Backlash

Pakistan Corruption

licitly obtained by the family of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan could not have been collected without the help of a network of Western and international intermediaries and accomplices.

The corruption detailed in stories by John Burns of The New York Times (IHT, Jan. 10) was made possible by companies that paid bribes to do business with Pakistan, banks that profited from Boutto-related accounts and lenders and political patroos - including Washington — willing to lonk the other way. In the last few years, some of these institutions have begun to take steps to combat corruption, but the Bbutto case shows how much more

needs to be done. Since 1977 the United States has had a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ont-lawing the payment of bribes to foreign government officials, but for years no other coontry followed suit. Some nations still allow companies to deduct foreign bribes from their taxes. Last November, 29 industrialized countries agreed on a treaty requiring them to prosecute companies that pay hribes to foreign government officials.

Completion of the treaty was heartening, but it has yet to go into force and

The tens of millions of dollars il- is filled with substantial holes. Fierce enforcement will be needed to make it effective.

That is also true with banking rules. In 1995 Citibank's Geneva branch opened a \$40 million account for a trading company of Asif Ali Zardari, Miss Bhutto's husband, who had a widespread reputation for corruption in Pakistan. While large American banks such as Chase and Citibank have among the world's toughest rules to bar the deposit of illegally obtained funds, the rules are still insufficient and intermittently enforced.

Pakistan also receives hillions of dollars in loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Both these institutions have cut off loans in other countries because of visible malfeasance but cannot act ou the hidden corruption endemic to Pakistan and many other countries.

The World Bank, which last year

began to focus on corruption, has improved the tracking of its loans and monitoring of national corruption and is now helping several nations, including Tanzania and Ukraine, carry out anti-corruption programs. These measures should be expanded as rapidly as possible.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Suharto Problem

cial crisis has now moved back to Indonesia. In South Korea, conditions have stabilized, at least for now. Thailand's government is making an earnest effort at reform. But in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, the situation goes from bad to worse. This is due partly to the wrong medicine being prescribed froto outside, partly to Indonesia's failure to implement necessary reforms and very largely to the same shortcoming that belped bring on the crisis in the first place: an absence of democratic accountability.

Indonesia's crisis began last year. In October, it reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to restructure its economy in exchange for hillions of dollars of emergency loans. But last Tuesday, its currency and stock market went back into a tailspin after President Suharto released a proposed fiscal hudget that, according to the judgment of ontside investors, was profligate, unrealistic and in violation of the agreed-upon IMF reform plan.

This judgment was, to a large extent, unfair. The proposed hudget actually was in balance. Despite terrible inflation now wracking Indonesia, the government proposed almost no pay raise for the civil service. For a quarterdmirable joh of balancing its hudget while reducing poverty in its country. The notion that, at this moment of crisis, the nation needs sudden aus-

terity is simply wrongheaded. Unfortunately, any defense Indonesia might have presented to the world of its fiscal soundness was undermined hy Mr. Suharto's apparent lack of seriousness in tackling the root causes of his nation's financial problems.

Indonesia during his 30-year tenure

The constantly moving epicenter of the seemingly unending Asian finan-economic growth, but in recent years that growth has been increasingly tarnished by cronyism and corruption. Children and friends of the president have amassed wealth, often from state-

sponsored projects.

But Mr. Suharto wavered when it came to shutting down a son's failing bank. He showed no inclination to pull the plug on wasteful and expensive state-sponsored projects, such as one to develop a "national car," which benefit a narrow circle but hurt the economy as a whole. There has been far too little commitment to moving from an economy of favors and influence to an open system ruled by

impartial law.

Most of all, investors have moved out of Indonesia because of fear of political turmoil. Mr. Suharto, 76, has had health problems — no one knows how serious - and he has done nothing to prepare for an orderly transition. On the contrary, he has done everything possible to quash those civic institutions that might have eased the way to a more democratic post-Suharto era.

In a nation that has weathered only one change of power since independence—and that one a bloody episode that claimed as many as 500,000 lives - this is no small failing. An absence of century now, Indonesia has done an any checks on presidential power—the absence of a free press, an independent legislature, a true opposition party allowed crony capitalism to flourish. Now it impedes the political and economic reform Indonesia desperately needs to stem the current panic.

The best gift Mr. Suharto could give his nation, and his best chance of salvaging a legacy of economic progress, would be to make way now for a new, more democratic system.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

Europe and Refugees

Europe is learning the price of its brave decision to allow the free movement of people across its internal borders. Bad times in regions to the south and Europe's own powerful allure are propelling foreigners into one after another constituent nation, whence they skip freely to other European

Earlier, those on the move came, in numbers adding up to the bundreds of thousands, from Morocco, Algeria, Bosnia and Alhania. In the latest instance, Kurds from Turkey and oorthem Iraq are landing by the hundreds in Italy and, some, in Greece and then fanning out. Fears of a much greater Kurdish flow are beginning to touch a European political scene demonstrably vulnerable to political backlash.

Inevitably, the Kurdish exodus has fed into the already-boiling dispute over what it will take for the Turks to win the great prize of membership in the European Union. The Turkish Army's conduct in putting down what it describes as a violent separatist uprising by Kurds is at the center of Europe's reluctance to accept Turkey as a democratic equal.

The Turks attribute the flight of Kurds to poverty and crime. Many Europeans lay it to Turkish repression. The foreign minister of Germany, Europe's leading host to the Kurds, now openly urges Turkey "to deal with its internal Kurdish problem, and that does

not mean militarily but politically." Meanwhile, a threat grows to an open interior borders policy that is otherwise celehrated as a jewel in an integrating Europe's crown. The very Kurds whom Italy admits as deserving refugees, Germany bars as undeserving migrants. Such discrepancies are pushing Europe to coordinate member states' immigration and asylum policies — itself no bad thing. Other political pressures are pushing Europe to impede the flow.

The first requirement here is that Europe preserve a generous space for political refugees. It may be hard, especially in Turkish circumstances of widespread uprootedness, to distinguish legitimate refugees from ordinary economic migrants. Americans know this from their own checkered experience. But the task must be done. -THE WASHINGTON POST.

Herald Cribune

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WASHINGTON — I like to think of the world as four different gas

At the Japanese gas station, gas is \$5 a gallon, four uniformed men wait on you and wash your windows and you drive away at ease.

At the American gas station, gas costs \$1 a gallon, you pump it yourself and four homeless people mug you around the corner and steal your hubcaps.

At the European gas station, gasoline costs \$5 a gallon, one person who works 32 hours a week and has six weeks' vacation waits on you, and four people living on generous unemployment insurance play boccie ball across the street.

At the communist gas station, gas costs only 50 cents a gallon but there is none. The four attendants have sold it all on the black market for \$5 a gailon. What is happening, for the moment, is that the American gas station model is triumphing over all others. But not with-

out a struggle. Korea, Japan and the other Asians are scrambling to avoid having m emulate the U.S. system. They like their kind of gas station, which has kept a lot of people employed and preserved

social harmony, by using crony

By Thomas L. Friedman

capitalism and walls of protection-Questioo: What will be the backlash in Asia from everyone's being forced into the U.S. gas station? I see several scenarios:

1. The anti-American backlash. What happened in Asia is that a lot of private businesses in Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, working through their local banks, borrowed money from private American, Japanese and European banks. Then the Asian currencies collapsed and they were unable to pay back their loans. The IMF, to stabilize the situation, steps in and asks the Asian governments to take over the failing banks, in order m sort out the bad loans

and repay the foreign banks. The IMF also insists that these countries open their economies and let foreigners buy controlling interests in local banks and husinesses. In return the IMF lends them money to pay off their debts. Then, when the crisis is over and these countries start growing again, their cit-izens can repay the IMF.

In short, the Asians are being told: Let America in, have your taxpayers pay America's banks back, let Americans buy your crown jewels at bargain base-

ment prices and, by the way, get rid of those three extra guys working in your gas station. Some Asians won't mind this. A Thai

friend told me that a friend of his recently lost his wallet with four bank cards in it, one from American Express and three from Bangkok banks. American Express sent him a new card that evening by motor scooter. He still has not heard from the three Bangkok banks. If American Express is now able to buy one of those Bangkok banks and improve its services, will he care? Not at all But a lot of Thai businessmen might when they discover that American Express won't lend money the old crony way, or that they have to sell their Thai hotels and banks to Americans at fire-sale prices, to stay solvent.

2. The anti-free-market backlash. There is going to be a hig push now to find a "third way" between the Amer-ican gas station and the old Asian one. A lot of countries are going to try to avoid huge layoffs by reducing the workweek, pumping some money into the economy (despite the IMF), keeping some large projects going and asking people to save more and cash in their gold earnings.

Maybe they will lay off one of the four people at their gas station but still keep three. Their attitude is that there was an Asian capitalist way before and there can be one again. Anything but the

American gas station.

3. The political backlash. If you talk to Indonesians today, what's interesting is that they don't blame the International Monetary Fund or the United States for Monetary Fund or the United States for their troubles, yet. They blame the corrupt, greedy, unaccountable Subarto ruling family. As they say in Indonesia, "The Subartos have everything except a sense of shame." Open markets ultimately need an open political system, and the emerging middle classes in Asia know it and are pressing for it as a result of this crisis. of this crisis.

4. The ethnic backlash. In Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, small Chinese merchant classes dominate the economies. If these societies really go into economic turmoil, there is real danger the Chinese minorities throughout Southeast Asia will be attacked. How will China react to that? Hrumm.

My bet. We are going to wimess all four backlashes at the same time. It's not easy to change gas stations.

American Remedies Won't Work in the Asian Crisis

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Currency collapse in Indonesia has outstripped the economic remedies proposed by the International Monetary Fund. This could very likely become the case for Thailand and South Korea as well. A new initiative is needed, which means new thinking.
The economic crisis in Asia is

a crisis of the American model for a globalized economy. Asia's implosion has resulted from the conflict between that American model and an Asian growth model that originated in Japan and was imitated elsewhere.

The IMF's proposed remedies are also American in inspiration. They were developed by the IMF in close cooperation with the Clinton administration Treasury and reflect mainstream U.S. economic views.

Those measures, at least in their initial application, have failed to halt the fall of Asian markets, banks and currencies. They are, additionally, criticized in principle not only in Asia but by inflnential American economists, such as Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard and Joseph Stiglitz, chief economist of the World Bank, as actually makposing further deflation on act independently.

economies already suffering from deflation. However, no international actor with the power to influence the situation is offering an alternative. It is generally acknowledged that the crisis is worsened by a contagious lack of confidence and by what George Soros politely describes as the tendency of market players to

"move in a herdlike fashion." The IMF itself acknowledges that Russia and Brazil now risk being drawn into the crisis thus moving economic disrup-tion toward Eastern Europe and into the Americas.

With the United States and its policies at the heart of the problem, it is difficult for Washington, or Washington-based international agencies, to restore confidence without re-versing policy (which would itself be no confidence-builder).

If Japan were capable of international initiative, one might imagine an Asian-based international consultation, and regional remedial action, that might halt or slow the crisis. But Japan, for bureaucratic as well ing the situation worse by im- as political reasons, is unable to Constitution of the second of

if Europe had the central economic directorate it promises to bestow upon itself when it acquires a single currency next year, it might be capable of a constructive initiative. German and French banks have greater loan exposure in Asia than American banks. But the Europeans renounced an independent role in world economic affairs 50 years ago, and despite the EU's enormous economic.

claimed it back. However, is it imaginable that Japan and the European Union might work jointly to develop proposals for stopping what could eventually become global deflation if they could do so under respectably neutral auspices? Could they do so in terms that Washington could endorse without dominating?

power today have never

The World Economic Forum, which convenes in Davos in three weeks, will bring together. in Switzerland representatives of nearly all the most influential public and private actors in the world economy today.

This meeting might be made the occasion for a new exam-

sources of the Asian crisis, and for the start of an open-minded reappraisal of economic and institutional measures to slow it

Kemper Research has said, it is evident that the market alone has a record of persistent miscalculation of risk and misallocation of resources. There is an essential role for governments in dealing with what Mr. Hale calls the most important case of transnational financial contagion since the collapse of Austria's Credmanstalt Bank in 1931.

As matters stand, the contagion continues to spread, with China, spared until now because its economy is not deregulated, being drawn toward the deflationary vortex.

If the Hong Kong stock mar-ket fails, — it is down by more than a third since the high that followed Hong Kong's takeover by China --- pressure on the dollar-linked but China-supported Hong Kong dollar could force devaluation of China's own currency. That would explosively enlarge the crisis, which then almost certainly could no longer be confined to Asia.

The Asian growth model oriination of the nature and ginated in Japan and produced

rapid industrialization and export-led growth through a stateinfluenced system of close cooperatioo between hankers and industrialists. It could sustain As David Hale of Zurich higher debt levels than Western systems because industry, banks and government were collaborating in what was viewed as a national enterprise.

The United States has for years attempted to destroy this Asian model because of its protectionist and statist features. Mr. Hale writes of what now

has happened to Korea: "The shanering of this economic model as a result of foreign banks suddenly withdrawing their funding ... is going to produce a legacy of distrust and resentment which will have long-term political implications.'

This is why American-inspired remedies to the problems of Asia no longer possess the credibility they possessed be-fore Thailand's finances collapsed. That provided the first falling domino in a sequence that has yet to be interrupted. whose political consequences could prove more dangerous than the economic ones.

International Herald Tribune

Don't Encourage Separatist Aims of Kosovo Albanians

OS ANGELES - With at-Lention transfixed by Asia's economic travails, it is easy to forget yesterday's foreign policy fixations. Bosnia, for example. Having talked a big game of resistance, the U.S. Congress has acquiesced in the

administration's decision to extend the U.S. mission there with barely a murmur of protest. Such moments of inattention can be exceedingly dangerous.
Especially when, as is happening today, America's friends are launching policy initialization.

tiatives that may reignite a Bal-kan shooting war — this time with U.S. forces at the center. The issue is a new German and French plan for Kosovo. Kosovo is a small, econom-

ically backward region inside Serbia populated by a large majority of ethnic Albanian

By Jonathan Clarke Muslims. The trouble is that atory, cautious posture by al-

their civilization. All the makings of tragedy are present: The Kosovo Albanian

eaders demand instant independence, a demand backed up by assassinations carried out by a shadowy "liberation army." On the Serbian side, extremists like Vojišlav Seseli are ex-

ploiting patriotic passions over Kosovo to outflank political moderates inside Serbia proper. Communal violence is already erupting. Arms are plentiful: In 1991, secessionist pres-

sures paved the way for the disintegration of Yugoslavia and the resultant Bosnian tragedy. With this lesson still fresh, it might be expected that Western policy would adopt a concili-

Serbs regard it as the cradle of lowing existing regional initiatives time to take root.

One such is the agreement reached Nov. 4 by President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and Albania's Prime Minister Fatos Nano to consult closely about Kosovo's future. This is an encouraging development, fueled by a new Greek political and economic interest in the Balkans. A Balkan summit meeting in Crete in November promised closer regional economic integration, a develop-ment that might ease Kosovo's

dire economic problems. This is too simple for Germany. And U.S. actions threaten to make the situation even more volatile.

Having apparently learned

nothing from their ill-judged intervention in 1991, the German and French foreign ministers sent a crisply worded letter to Serbia and Kosovo leaders at the end of November exhorting them to start a dialogue about

Kosovo's future. Not surprisingly, those actions hardened Kosovo's demands for independence and promoted a Serbian walkout at a December conference reviewing the Dayton peace accords. The circumstances are haunt-

ingly familiar. In 1991, Germany's partners were aghast at its premature recognition of Croatia and Slovenia but were powerless to protest. Both Britain and France needed German assistance with the about-to-befinalized Maastricht treaty.

Today, similar conditions ao ply. With European monetary union on the horizon, Britain and France are once again in thrall to Germany. Their stake in the evolving EU financial architecture is more important than Kosovo. So they are content to go along with Germany on this

apparently peripheral issue.
In 1991, Germany thought it was being helpful. By involving the international community in the Balkan dispute, it expected to deflect the tide of war. The opposite happened. The same risk from well-meaning hot fundamentally ill-conceived outside intervennon is present

today with potentially more serious consequences.

Ethnic Albanians are spread widely throughout the Balkans: in Montenegro, in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, in Bulgaria, in Greece and, of course, in Albania. If they conclude that they have Western backing for secession from Serbia, they may act rashly. Ethnic violence might well spill over to involve all of the Balkans.

This is an extraordinarily unattractive scenario with special negatives for the United States: War to Kosovo could prolong the Bosnian deployment indefinitely.

The Clinton administration oceds to take immediate action. Its first target must be the selfappointed nation-builders on the U.S. team who are itching to put their pet theories to the test. The State Department's Bosnia supremo, Robert Gelbard, for example, has brought prominent Kosovo Albanians to Washingmo to showcase their demands.
With U.S. troops on the line,

the administration and Congress should put all of America's efforts into establishing a peace in Bosnia that is durable enough to influence peace in Kosovo.

The writer is a former member of the British foreign service who is affiliated with the Cato Institute. He contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO 1898: Sawdust Bread

PARIS - For the past two years there has been wholesale adulteration of bread in many parts of France. The deleterious matter mixed with the flour with which this bread was made was nothing less than sawdust, reduced to a fine powder. A man named Fessat, who has, presumably, been making a large fortune by selling, in connivance with millers, a mixture of sawdust

1923: Ruhr Seizure

and flour, has been arrested.

ESSEN - The military might of France lies beavy upon the Ruhr Valley with the completion of the first steps for the enforcement of the French policy of productive guarantees. The forward move of the French and Belgians for the occupation of Essen and other industrial centres of the Ruhr began long before dawn to-day

[Dec. 11]. There was great animation in the streets, which were thronged with factory workers eagerly awaiting the coming of the French. It was evident that the crowds were hostile, but they were in a cowed mood and afraid to give vent to their feelings,

1948: Novel Assailed MOSCOW Alexander

Fadeyev, leading Soviet novelist and president of the Soviet Writers' Union, attacked himself for baving written the passages in his best-selling noval, "Young Guard," for which he was recently criticized by two Communist party organs. He promised to rewrite the book to make it correspond to the demands of the Communist part.
"Young Guard" was assented as picturing the Bolshevikass inferior to the Young Communists in the guardilla was a spirit. nists in the guerrilla war against the German invaders,

Disingenuous Shock and Dismay

NEW YORK — No one who has known and admired David Brinkley - and that includes me - can be anything other than saddened by his new, undignified TV role as corporate spokesman for Archer Daniels Midland. But at least Mr. Brinkley waited to retire from broadcast news before he entered the commercial arena. What's his colleagues' excuse?

Tacky as these spots are, they are hardly the pressing scandal right now in TV news, where working journalists hlur the line between commerce and journalism every day, pitching products on the air without even bothering to label those pitches as the commercials they are.

Nowhere has this problem been more acute than at Mr. Brinkley's former employer, ABC News, where "Good Morning America" on-camera personnel were enlisted to promote a theme park of the network's parent company, Disney.

But you can also find this incessant product-plugging on almost every local news show, as fake stories are dreamed up to promote network movies, series and specials. My enterprising local NBC affiliate in New York has gone

By Frank Rich

Nazi activity in World War IIera Long Island as a tie-in to ts octwork's airing of 'Schindler's List." From the reaction of other

TV journalists to Mr. Brinkley's fall from grace, though, you'd think TV news had never been more pure. This hypocrisy boiled over on Thursday, in a piece by The Washingtoo Post's media critic, Howard Kurtz, in which we learned that "even some of Brinkley's former colleagues at ABC say privately they are beartbroken over his new calling" (IHT, Jan. 10).

In the story, Daniel Schott. now a senior news analyst for National Public Radio, went into overcrive lamenting how "dismayed and shocked" he was at the Brinkley spots, noting that the former newsman should be "a role model for young people."

Much as I respect Mr.

Schorr, his moralizing would have been easier to take if I had not just seen him playing a NBC's 'Meet the Press,' fictional anchor opposite Michael Donglas in a Hollywood NPR's 'NewsHour' and thriller, "The Game," having sidered." It's the kind of hardalso appeared in a cheesier potboiler, "The Net," the year before. so far as to byperventilate Last summer almost a dozen about previously little-known CNN correspondents turned up Last summer almost a dozen

in the sci-fi film "Contact," including one reporter who was then covering real-life space exploration for that network.

Just how much this revolving door between TV news and Hollywood's celebrity culture undermines the public's already shaky trust in journalism was best stated by the news anchor Tom Brokaw when he explained why he de-clines movie roles: "It's hard

enough for television journa-

lists to convince people that we

do our own reporting and write our own material." None of his former colleagues' corner-cutting makes Mr. Brinkley's new career any more appetizing, but after the dismay and shock subside, who in broadcast news will blow the whistle on the business's other nefarious practices?

Not the least of these in-

volves Archer Daniels Mid-

land's long effort to minimize tough broadcast journalistic scrutiny of its political contributions and resulting corporate pork by sponsoring not just ABC's "This Week" but hitting story that once upon a time we expected from both David Brinkley and Daniel

The New York Times.

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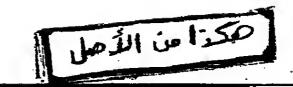
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HEALTH/SCIENCE



How the Bug Keeps Snug in Wintertime

By Jane E. Brody New York Times Service

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EW YORK - There are good reasons that insects, not people, are the dominant form of multicellular life on earth. Not the least of them is the ability to survive extreme environmental stress, particularly the harsh winters in the temperate and polar regions.

While humans have only a limited number of options for keeping warm in winter — donning extra clothing, stay-ing in heated huildings and heading for hotter climes — insects have evolved myriad strategies to survive winter's frigid conditions, including the ability to greatly lower their freezing points and, for some, to tolerate being frozen

On Ellesmere Island, 500 miles (800 kilometers) from the North Pole, for example, an Arctic woolly bear caterpillar lies frozen for 10 months of the year, capable of surviving temperatures as low as 126 degrees Fahrenheit below the freezing point of water. With only two frost-free months each year to develop, this insect can take as many as 20 years to get through its life cycle, from egg to adult moth.

By Susan Okie

Washington Post Service

ASHINGTON - Pruits and vegetables

contain a type of potassium salt, po-

tassium citrate, that appears to lower

blood pressure and may reduce the risk

Another cryogenic wonder, the larva of a fly that forms a spherical gall, or tumor, on goldenrod, can survive with 70 percent of its body water frozen, even when temperatures dip to minus 90 de-, grees Fahrenheit, 122 degrees below

Why don't their delicate larval cells rupture when their body water turns to ice, and how do they avoid freezer hurn? The answer, say entomologists who specialize in how insects make it through the winter, lies primarily in their ability to stoke their bodies with protective compounds, like the ones used to preserve sperm, embryos and blood cells when they are stored frozen in liquid nitrogen. Unraveling the mysteries of how

various insects cope with winter is giving researchers new handles on the biological control of insect pests, including ways to foil the cold-hardiness of crop-damaging pests while reducing agriculture's dependence on toxic

For example, Dr. Marcia Lee, a microbiologist at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, said a number of laboratories were studying the bacteria and fungi that raise the freezing point of insect pests. The goal is to cause the

Some Salts May Reduce Risk of Stroke

back on salt. On the other hand, patients taking

diuretics for high blood pressure are often prescribed

supplements of potassium chloride, since potassium

is considered beneficial. But the new research sug-

gests that at least in some people, chloride — whether

it's combined with sodium or with potassium -- also

may raise blood pressure.

Researchers at the University of California San

Francisco compared the effects of various potassium

compounds in the diet of rats genetically predisposed

insects to freeze to death during winter temperatures they would normally survive. The bacteria and fungi are the same ice-seeding microbes used to make snow on ski slopes.

Other researchers are cashing in oo how the predators of crop pests get through the winter. Drs. Maurice and Catherine Tauber, husband-and-wife entomologists at the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, have shown that they could provide farmers with a ready supply of a valuable predator, the common green lacewing, a devourer of destructive aphids and caterpillars. By understanding the basic biology of lacewing dormancy, the Taubers devised a way to induce dormancy at will. They keep mass-cultured lacewings in cold storage in the off season, then artificially break the dormancy and have the insects produce as many eggs as they would have if they had not been stored.

Dr. Maurice Tauber said, "Even with those insects that don't undergo a classic hibernation, we've learned how to months" so they can be released over a

As cold-blooded creatures, arthro-

(high blood pressure) are usually counseled to cut to high blood pressure and stroke. During the three-

pods that breed in the temperate and arctic zones have one all-consuming winter task: to find some way to keep from freezing to death. Dr. Lee's husband, Dr. Richard Lee, an insect physiologist at Miami University in Ohio, explained that most insects avoided freezing by behavioral adaptations. Some, like the monarch butterfly, migrate long distances to warmer territories, using the ever-shorter days of late summer as their clue to head sooth before the fall chill makes flying too difficult for an animal that gets

ANY others burrow deep into the soil or head for the bottom of a lake, below the frost line. Ants, for example, may dig down six feet, then form a tight huddle at the end of the tunnel to

Dr. Richard Lee explained that in response to environmental clues indicating the coming of winter — like shorter days, lower temperatures and the induce cold hardiness and store them for death of host plants - many insects that would die if they froze produce prodifield at the right time to attack an insect gious quantities of antifreeze, primarily glycerol, sorbitol and trehalose (the main blood sugar of insects).

Researchers Choose Sides in Fat Debate

By Gina Kolata New York Times Service

EW YORK -- The editors of the august New Eogland Journal of Medicine gave their guilt-plagued over-weight readers a New Year's gift. Losing weight, they wrote in their Jan. I issue, is 'an ill-fated New Year's res-

Their evidence is taken from one of the largest studies ever conducted on the risks of obesity. In the study, which was published in the same issue, researchers analyzed the fates of 324,135 white adults who were followed for 12 years. They found that the excess risk of dying associated with obesity was modest and declined as people aged. By age 65, the effect was virtually absent. It disappeared altogether by the time people reached 74.

But the reaction to the editorial, written by Dr. Marcia Angell and Dr. Jerome P. Kassirer, was decidedly mixed. Many Americans merely shrugged. Here we go again, they said. Another example of scientists saying one thing one day and another thing the next. Why should anyone believe

Outrage was the reaction among medical experts who have made the fight against obesity their life's mission and career. They charged that the eminent editors trivialized a major medical

So is it risky to be fat? Perhaps, some experts say, the problem is that the question is too vague. A more specific uestion: Does being fat make it more likely that a person will develop chronic disorders like diabetes, high blood pres-sure and high levels of blood cholesterol? The answer is a resounding yes.

'Obesity is associated with a tremendous increase in diabetes," said Dr. Claude Bouchard, an obesity researcher at Laval University in Quebec. Fat people are up to five times more likely to develop the disease and three times more likely to develop high blood pressure, Dr. Bouchard said.

Another question: Is there an ideal weight (one at which the risk of dying is lowest)? The answer is, once again,

Dr. June Stevens, the lead author of the obesity study and an epidemiologist and nutritionist at the University of North Carolina, points out that her data and those of similar studies indicate the ideal weights are pretty much the same as those on the height and weight

The data are associated with a measure called body mass index, in which the ideal is a number between 19 and 25. (To find your body mass index, divide your weight in pounds by your height in feet squared, Then multiply by 4.89. A woman who is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 126 pounds has a body mass index of 21. A man who is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 146 pounds has a body mass index of 21.)

But the question raised by The New England Journal of Medicine editors is different: Does obesity lead to an early death? When they argued that it did not, the feet forms.

the fur flew.

Angell and Kassirer say the evidence that losing weight reduces the risk of premature death is "limited, fragmentary and often ambiguous." Why, they ask, is obesity such a rallying cry for public health and obesity experts, who trumpet it as the second-leading cause of preventable death, after smoking, in the United States?

Could it be, they wrote, that the "medical campaign against obesity" comes from the tendency to "medicalize behavior we do not approve of "? If science can say that obesity is a major cause of premature death, it follows that it must be treated, with drugs if necessary. Doctors repulsed by obesity can justify giving out pills, even those of uncertaio value, because it is seen as a major health risk.

Never mind that every drug to date has been only minimally and temporarily effective, and some are even dangerous. The popular fen-pben combination has been hanished, after two of the drugs, phenfluramine and dexfenfluramine, were found to be associated with rare and serious heart valve de-

"In this age of political correctness, it seems that obese people can be criticized with impunity, because the critics are merely trying to help them." Angell

IN BRIEF

Clinton Condemns Cloning

WASHINGTON (Combined Dispatches) - President Bill Clinton on Saturday urged swift action by Congress to ban human cloning before a Chicago scientist can begin experiments that the president condemned as untested and unsafe and morally un-

Strongly denouncing plans an-nounced last week by Dr. Richard Seed, Clinton said human cloning carries profound implications that must be thoroughly debated before it could proceed.

In his weekly radio address, Clinton not only renewed his call on Congress to pass pending legislation to impose a five-year moratorium on such experiments, hot also portrayed Dr. Seed as a scientific renegade.

Thirteen countries on Monday will sign the first binding international ban on burnan cloning: Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Spain, Swedeo and Turkey. The Independent on Sunday news-

paper said, meanwhile, that experiments in human cloning could begin in Britain as early as next year. It said the prospect of such experiments would move closer with the publication in coming weeks of an official consultation document explaining the benefits of the controversial (LAT. Reuters)

17th Victim in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Hong Kong's Department of Health said a sixyear-old girl had cootracted the "avian flu" virus, bringing the number of confirmed cases to 17.

The girl in the latest case was admitted to a hospital on Dec. 7, before the authorities ordered that all chickens in Hong Kong be slaughtered, a bealth department spokesman said.

Initial tests had showed no signs of the avian flu and the girl was discharged. But more recent blood test results indicated that she had been infected.

Hong Kong killed 1.4 million chickens and other poultry to minimize the risk of the virus being transmitted to bumans by direct contact with live birds.

Mobile Phones Assailed

LONDON (Reuters) - Scientists in Britain are demanding that the mobile telephone, an indispensable modern tool for millions, carry a bealth warning.

Concerns are mounting about the telephones' potential links to health prob-

lems, from headaches to brain tumors. 'Anyone who uses a mobile telephone for more than 20 minutes at a time needs to have their brain tested." said Roger Coghill, a scientist of bio-elec-

tromagnetics.

of stroke, according to a study of hypertension-prone rats. Common table salt (sodium chloride) tends to increase blood pressure in many people, ostensibly because of the sodium, so those with hypertension

LANGUAGE

Trunk Shows for the High-End Crowd

By William Safire

the tailgate party is to eating out in the parking lot at sports events. Emannel Ungaro Parallele Spring

Saks Fifth Avenue ad, "with informal modeling from noon to 4." That senwear division.) What's "informal modeling"? (It's not an all-out fashion show, with runways and music and a bridal gown at the end — just a model or two hanging around the contents of the trunk.) And though even the most unfashionable language mavens know what a trunk is (originally a wooden chest, presumably first made from a tree trunk), what is a

trunk show? "Trunk Shows Hit the Road and Spread the Fashion News' was a headline in The New York Times in 1971. The article, by Joan Cook, reported that American designers were taking to the road with representative collections of classic clothes, countering the well-publicized European collections of cotting-edge fashious: "In some instances, the designer is on hand for an

added smattering of glamour." Bernadine Morris, a former fashion

ASHINGTON — A hot phrase direct to her, and sometimes invited a few clients to come and take a look. Then it got a little more formal and Then it got a little more formal and more public." With the rise of American designers in the '50s, the showing 1998 Trunk Show announces the trunk show was the vehicle for personal appearances by the new celebrities.

The attraction for the local store

tence triggered three questions: Does huyer, and for the ultimate purchaser, parallele mean that Ungaro is beside himself? (No — that's his ready-to-himself? (No — that's his ready-to-himself?) line. "T've never been able to do trunk

> In some instances, the designer is on hand for an added smattering of glamour.'

told Vogue in 1993, "because I can't think that far ahead." The advance look available to a se-

(high-end, associated with top of the line, is a cuphemism for "nch") is today being extended to a wider cli- on." entele. With the ads, in come the

been doing these shows for 40 years. writer for The New York Times, recalls writer for The New York Times, recalls tells me. "These days the whole collection is packed in three or four really thick canvas garment bags."

hundred things in trunks and take them to, say. Macy's in Colorado. The huyer used by the Parisian dress-packer Louis Vnitton in 1837—is passé, oow that the era of the trunk show is upon us? "I still see some representatives with packing cases," Blass recalls, "coffinlike things laid flat with the clothes strapped in. They are a bit of "designer fashion" took off, and the cumbersome, and I imagine the clothes trunk show was the vehicle for personal get wrinkled."

> Two headlines from the same issue of The New York Times came in from Omar Gharzeddine of New York. One read: "After a Delay, Text Gets Out On Internet" and the other: "Apple to Offer Custom Orders Over the Internet." He asks: "What's the differ-

One moves, the other sits - that is, one deals with transmission, the other with storage. "Over refers to transmission," says Harry Newton, author of Newton's Telecom Dictionary. 'The Internet is really a transport mechanism, just a method of getting from lect group of high-end customers A to B. When you get where you are going - and for most people, this is the Weh or another computer - you are

Here am I, with my column availcrowds — and you can forget the origable on the Internet (at inal trunks.

www.nytimes.com). There it sits, on. "The word trunk is really out of You can get it, or access it, over the date," the designer Bill Blass, who has

I'm doing my best to keep up. I don't say "w, w, w" anymore — just a breezy "Web." Saves eight syllables. New York Times Service

BOOKS

pressure under control.

month study, the animals fed a supplement of po-

tassium citrate or potassium bicarbonate had con-

sistently lower blood pressure than a control group and

suffered no strokes, while those fed potassium chlor-ide had higher blood pressure and more strokes.

As in the rats, the researchers suggest, chloride may

exacerbate high blood pressure in people who are

genetically sensitive to it. The potassium citrate found

naturally in produce, however, may help keep blood

The Road to Dolly, and the Path Ahead

By Gina Kolata 276 pages. William Morrow. \$23.

Reviewed by Ed Regis

scientists said, precloded it.

CLONING, before it happened, was another of those science-fiction bugaboos, a prospect whose horror quo-tient ranked just below that of reanimated corpses or a walking, talking Frankenstein monster. It was not supposed to be possible: The laws of nature,

In 1984 James McGrath and Davor Solter, two developmental biologists who ought to have known better, wrote in the pages of Science magazine: "The cloning of mammals, by simple nuclear transfer, is biologically impossible."

It wasn't, but the technical obstacles seemed considerable at the time, at least to them. As for the moral problems, they fell into a class by themselves and prompted a cadre of professional doomsayers to cook up entire flotillas of worst-case scenarios: madmen getting hold of a lock of Madonna's hair and producing a hundred Madonna clones, for what conceivable reason God only knew.

Neither the scientific skeptics nor the trained Cassandras would ever have imagined that when the impossible was finally done, it would be accomplished not by mad scientists nor by academic biologists at a prestigious university but by a pair of backwoods livestock scientists whose goal was not to understand nature in the abstract but to establish a fundamentally new way of

The fearsome clone, when it appeared, was not a Frankenstein monster

but a soft white lamb named Dolly that emerged from the womb, head and forelegs first, onto the straw bedding of an animal shed in Roslin, Scotland.

Gina Kolata's "Clone" is the story of all this. Clear, detailed and knowledgeable, it blazes through dark thickets of apocalyptic nonsense about the ultimate meaning of cloning, whether animal or human. And the tale Kolata weaves is almost unbearably suspenseful as scientists bent on manipulating nature for their own ends surmount each successive obstacle only to come up against another, even greater one.

By the time all the barriers fall away and the impossible has been accomplished, the reader experiences not merely the thrill of success but actual ennoblement, proud that we as a species have managed to perform this phenomenal feat of applied biology.

The paradox was that Ian Wilmut, Dolly's creator, was looking only for a better way to make pharmaceoticals. His sponsor, PPL Therapeutics Ltd., a biotechnology company with headquar-ters in Edinburgh, had shown that genetically engineered sheep could be made to manufacture certain drugs in their milk, substances that could be used to treat hemophilia, cystic fibrosis and other human diseases. Sheep with the properly altered genes would make such drugs automatically, right along with their ordinary milk,

If those sheep could be cloned, writes Kolata, a science reporter for The New York Times, then the company could simply milk the sheep, extract the drug from the milk and sell it. If they made both male and female sheep that carried the added gene, they could breed these sheep and have a self-perpetuating flock

of living drug factories. Cloning didn't sound all that hard. To

clone an animal, take an egg from the ovary of animal X and physically remove its genetic material. Take the genetic material from the cell of animal Y and insert it into X's empty egg. Finally, implant that egg into the womb of animal Z, cross your fingers and hope for the best

If the process worked, the result would be an identical new copy of Y, a But several problems stood in the

way of producing the first clone. One was that all the cells of an adult animal are differentiated: They are liver cells, skin cells, brain cells or whatever.

Although it was a fundamental doctrine of molecular biology that every nucleated cell cootained all the genetic information needed to make a new organism, it still wasn't obvious that as a practical matter you could take the nucleus of a given differeonated cell and generate from it a new copy of the original creature. Perhaps the nucleus had been altered in the process of differentiation, so that the necessary information, although still there in the DNA, was unusable.

RAIN cells, after all, were brain cells forever; they never changed into liver or skin cells. So once a given cell had decided to be whatever it is, how could you make it decide to start dividing again and grow into a whole new animal?

Following the progress of these experts and understanding the science behind each step in their quest ultimately dispels the seeming horror of cloning. In the end, when Dolly finally emerges from the womh, the most famous little lamb in history, the event is as joyful and wondrous as any other live hirth.

New York Times Service

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the 16-year-old company fell to a four-and-a-half year low of 2.15 Hong Kong dollars (28 U.S. cents).

Weakening currencies cut the volume and value of First Pacific's sales. The earnings it is to report in March were cut by \$25 million in lost revenue and \$70 million in one-time foreign-exchange

By selling Hagemeyer, First Pacific

will trade its fastest-growing business

for a chance to reduce its debt and

sharpen its focus on Asia, analysts said.

Hagemeyer contributes a third of the company's profit. The car and appliance

trader's sales are expected to grow an average of 15 percent a year for the next

decade, while the rest of First Pacific's

business grows less than 10 percent,

said Steven Thompson, head of research

at Nikko Securities in Hong Kong.
Still, selling the Dutch unit will allow
First Pacific to wipe \$1.1 billion off its
own \$3.2 billion of total debt without

spending a penny, by allowing it to stop consolidating the two company's ac-

First Pacific also plans in use about

\$550 million of the cash raised to cut its

own debt, leaving it with only \$350 million outstanding in the form of con-

The chairman of Metro Pacific Corp.

said the company planned to sell 14 billion pesos (\$300 million) of stock to

its shareholders to help shore up its finances, Bloomberg News reported

from Hong Kong.
The Manila-based company, whose

businesses include property, banking

and packaging, plans to hold the sale by July, said Mr. Pangilinan, the com-

organizing financing. Mr. Zourabov

also spoke at the symposium. Menatep

trolling stake in Rosneft include RAO

Gazprom, the Russian natural gas

monopoly, and AO Lukoil Holding, the

Under the plan, the government intends to sell more than 50 percent of

Rosneft, whose assets have been valued

at as much as \$2 billion and include AO

Purneftegaz, in Siberia, and AO Sakhalinmorneftegaz, in the Russian Far East.

pected to announce the winner of the auction for Rosneft by April.

reserves of the former Soviet Union are

considered one of the industry's last

first opened the industry to foreign in-

vestment in 1987. Russia alone has 49

billion barrels of proven oil reserves,

triple the size of the oil fields of the

North Sea, according to estimates from

one of Russia's largest energy compa-

BP has a joint venture agreement with

untapped prizes.

British Petroleum PLC.

The Ministry of State Property is ex-

For U.S.-based oil companies, the oil

That has been the case since Russia

country's largest oil producer.

Other companies that are said to be

■ Metro Pacific Stock Offering

counts.

mance in Hong Kong's 33-company
Hang Seng Index. Last week, shares in of its parent, First Pacific Co.

Yukos to Prospect for Oil

With Bids for State Firms

largest oil producer, plans to submit bids holds a controlling interest in Yukos.

vertible bonds.

First Pacific to Sell

Stake in Dutch Firm

Realignment Spurred by Asian Collapse

HONG KONG — First Pacific Co.

agreed to sell its stake in Hagemeyer

NV for about \$1.55 billion and plans to

sell other businesses and buy new ones

after the financial turmoil sweeping

Asia burt profit and sent its stock turn-

bling.
The Hong Kong-based company said it would sell its 40 percent of the Dutch

trading company in American and Euro-

pean investors. It is also negotiating to

sell other the businesses for about \$450

million and plans to use the combined

proceeds to reduce its debt and make

new acquisitions in Asia, executives

The realignment is one of the biggest yet sparked by the collapse of Asian shares and currencies and the looming

recessions some of the region's coun-

tries now face. First Pacific's own stock

"What's been happening in the re-

gion has kept us on the run 24 hours a day," said the First Pacific managing

director, Manuel Pangilinan. "But we

are a strong company and not running to

clude banking, property and telecom-munications, will use some of the \$2

billion in proceeds to buy Asian compa-

nies made cheap by the plunge in the

Philippine unit, Metro Pacific Corp.,

seeking new foreign partners for its re-

development of an army base in Manila

and negotiating in buy control of the

Philippines' biggest brewery. San Miguel Corp., Mr. Pangilinan said.

First Pacific shares fell 78 percent in

the past six months, the worst perfor-

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts -

AO Yukos Holding, Russia's second-

in the sale of state-owned oil companies,

Mr. Shakhnovsky also said Saturday

"We've been bolding discussions

with Amoco for quite some time, and

it's possible we will form a partner-

ship," Mr. Shakhnovsky said. Amoco

has also been discussing a venture with Yukos to develop the Russian com-

Yukos is one of several companies

interested in making a bid for RAO Rosneft, the last major state-owned oil

producer. The government also is plan-

ning to sell its interest in AO Tyumen

Oil Co., the nation's sixth-largest oil

Mr. Shakhnovsky, who gave a presentation at a U.S.- Russian invest-

ment symposium at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of

Government on Saturday, did not say

whether Yukos intended to make a bid

pany's Priobskoye oil field in Siberia.

that Yukos may form a joint venture with

chairman, Vasili Shakhnovsky.

Amoco Corp. of the United States.

It is also injecting \$300 million its

region's currencies and stocks.

First Pacific, whose businesses in-

fell 43 percent last week alone.

the graveyard.'

Technology and the Media Titan Will the Giants Lose Their Audience in the Digital Age?

By Mark Landler

NEW YORK — Early one morning in July, five of the media industry's most powerful executives gathered around a table before a select audience in a windowless conference room at Idaho's Sun Valley Lodge.
The atmosphere at the conference

was aggressively casual — just five guys in chinos and polo shirts chatting about world domination.

It was a formidable lineup: Rupert Murdoch, head of News Corp., Gerald Levin, chairman of Time Warner Inc.; David Geffen of SKG DreamWorks; Barry Diller, chief of USA Networks Inc., and Edgar Bronfman Jr., bead of Seagram Corp., which owns the MCA

But this particular morning, the tycoons were about to be taken down a notch. Andrew Grove, chief executive of Intel Corp., moderated the discussion. Or more precisely, he commandeered it. Mr. Grove's complaint was that the five ### Dipanelists were Luddites. Di-

gital technology and the Internet were transforming the worlds of media and entertainment, but these captains of industry were resisting the change.
"They don't get technology," Mr.

Grove said in an interview that recalled his comments in the closeddoor session, "and they think it poses a threat to their core business."

Maybe the media executives are right to be scared. It is unfashionable in this era of techno-intoxication to suggest that technology could result in anything but boundless growth. But for traditional media companies, the digital age poses genuine danger.

By splintering the mass market into a kaleidoscope of narrow niches, technology is threatening to deprive Time Warner Inc., Walt Disney Co., Viacom Inc. and their peers of the mass andiences on which they depend for advertising revenues.

Reed Hundt, former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said, "The fundamental premises of the media business have been croding even as the big firms have engaged in high-wire deal-making."

In 1994, Mr. Levin of Time Warner trumpeted plans for the company's Orlando, Florida, cable system, which would offer movies on demand and an electronic shopping mall. "When I ized the previous year, 'T'll be able to switch to anything, anywhere." Similarly, John Malone chairman of Tele-Communications Inc., the largest U.S. cable operator, promised to deliver viewers a 500-channel world.

Media chiefs believed their revennes would explode if they could offer

viewers an endlessly varied menu of their bands about how to use the tech-programs. What few of them realized nology. They worry that they will not was that the technology for genuine interactivity was still years away — and that no economic model had been

devised to support it.
In the meantime, by rushing from mass to niche programming, they were whittling away the economic underpinnings of their business. Mass media, of course, had been splintering ever since the emergence of cable television in the 1970s. But with the onset of digital technology and the internet, the

fragmentation is accelerating.

It is the Internet, in particular, that has media executives spooked. They did nothing to develop it and little to popularize it. And even now, though they all maintain sites on the World Wide

Web - some of them, like the Disneyowned ESPN Sportzone, are extremely popular — it is not clear how genuinely the media

chiefs embrace the Net. While computer executives see the Internet as a vast new business opportunity, media executives worry about losing

television viewers. Another big problem for media executives is that they have been re-soundingly unsuccessful in squeezing a profit out of the World Wide Web.

On cable, meanwhile, where digital technology is allowing the giants to edge closer to their variated 500-channel universe, the dial is filling up with safe choices rather than the diversity that big media companies seemed to promise. Cable subscribers in New York City, for example, can watch the news on at least five different cable channels, in addition to local broadcast stations. Most of these usually draw by ratings. Other choices on the dial, such as American Movie Classics or Turner Classic Movies, have loyal viewers. But they exist not so much to slake a public thirst as to recycle ma-

"As you go from 35 channels to 75 channels," said Howard Stringer, the president of Sony Corp. of America, 'you diminish the audience for everything. That makes it harder to generate the advertising revenue for quality programming.

terial stored in vast film libraries.

The squeeze will become even more acute with the introduction of digital TV this summer, which will allow broadcasters to transmit six programs, instead of one, on a single channel, or else to transmit that single channel in a high-definition form. With the cost for the conversion to digital running into the billions, the networks are wringing nology. They worry that they will not be able to squeeze another nickel out of their advertisers, let alone come up with anything original to broadcast.

To hear Mr. Grove and Mr. Hundt talk, the media industry is about where

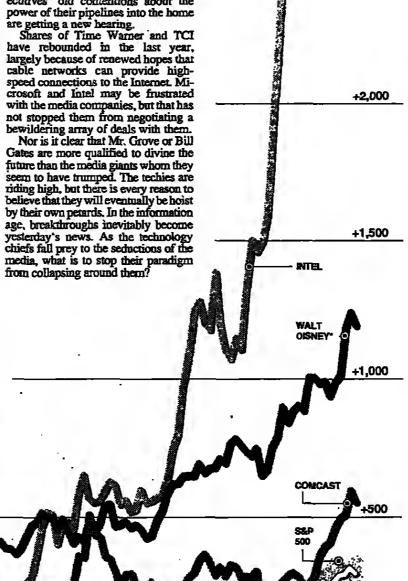
the horse-and-buggy business was when Henry Ford cranked up his assembly line. Mr. Hundt said that people no longer wanted to consume news or entertainment passively. In the future, be predicted, all media would be interactive.

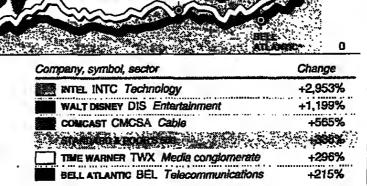
Media executives dismiss such doomsaying as naive. "These guys say that movies and TV shows are antique forms of entertainment," Mr. Diller said. "But to think that passive entertainment is going to end is absurd."

He has a point. From "Seinfeld" to "Titanic," television programs and films still have the power to draw mass andiences. Moreover, the media executives' old contentions about the

largely because of renewed hopes that cable networks can provide highspeed connections to the Internet. Microsoft and Intel may be frustrated with the media companies, but that has not stopped them from negotiating a

Nor is it clear that Mr. Grove or Bill Gates are more qualified to divine the future than the media giants whom they seem to have trumped. The techies are riding high, but there is every reason to believe that they will eventually be hoist by their own petards. In the information age, breakthroughs inevitably become yesterday's news. As the technology chiefs fall prey to the seductions of the media, what is to stop their paradigm from collapsing around them?





*Time Inc. and Warner Communications merged in 1990; Walt Disney acquired Capital Cities/ABC in 1996; Bell Atlantic merged with Nynex in 1997.

for Rosneft, Tyumen or both. Separately, Alexander Zourabov, president of Russia's Menatep Bank, nies, AO Sidanco, and Royal Dutch/ said it would not be a buyer at the next Shell Group recently made a direct inauction of Russian state-run enterprises. vestment in Gazprom.

Taiwan's Business Elite Looks for Investment Bargains in Battered Region

By Thomas Crampton International Herald Tribune

TAIPEI - Taiwan's economic elite flew to the Phil-ippines on Sunday to kick off a 10-day bargain bunt among

the devastated economies of Southeast Asia.

In what might prove a disappointment to the hosts, bowever, many on the trip said they would be merely window shopping.

Media companies are glamorous, but for investors, the Media Decade was a mixed

investors would have been far happier with stock in a technology company like Intel

than with their flashy media shares. Chart shows percentage changes in stock prices

bag. As this sampling of companies in several communications sectors shows,

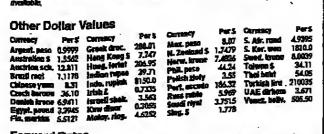
since the beginning of 1986, plotted monthly except January 1998.

CURRENCY RATES

| Colors | Color | Col

Closings in Amslerdam, Landon, Milera, Parts and Zurich, fixings in other centers: New York rotes of 4 P.M. and Townto rates at 3 P.M.

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38-day 40-day 99-day Potend Starting 1.6130 1.6166 1.6081 Consoling dyslar 1.6232 1.6220 1.6299 Destruction mark 1.6190 1.6162 1.6130

Sources: HVG Bank (Amsterdamk Cerd Investment Bank (Bressets): Banca Communt.
Inflore (Mikm): Banque de Franco (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsabish (Tokyo): Royal
Bank of Canada (Toroata): IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bluombo

decline of its currency against the U.S. dollar, Taiwan Inc. has newfound wealth. Cash-strapped companies

in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia where local currencies have declined by as much as 80 percent - are offering assets for a fraction of last year's cost. Taiwan's government has said it would encourage Southeast Asian investment with low-interest loans and technical assistance.

But members of the 60member delegation said it vest now. They cited a num- currency volatility had

possible competitive devaluations and a fear of a backlash against Chinese in Sontheast Asia

"The situation is not stable enough yet for investment, so I am just going to study which Japanese and Korean subsidiaries could be sold to our members, 'said Li Chang, deputy secretary-general of the Taipei Computer Association.

Taiwan investments in Southeast Asia have not gone unscathed in the region's economic plunge. On Friday, was unlikely they would in- local papers reported that

Having weathered the last ber of concerns, including forced the Taiwan food giant year with a relatively small prolonged economic turnoil, President Enterprises to suspend 20 billion Taiwan dollars (\$587 million) worth of investments in the Philip-

> "One company boss told me that the last six months of crisis in Malaysia have wiped out five years of profits because of falling land and as-set values," Mr. Li said.

> "The Indonesian political situation is too unpredictable," said a member of the Taiwan delegation. "In all of these countries apart from Thailand there might be a reassertion of anti-Chinese sentiment. Our businessmen are always in its shadow."

whether China will devalue the yuan, said Thomas Yeh, director-general of the economic research at the government's Council for Eco-

nomic Planning and

Development.

"I have come on this trip to study this epic market slowdown to include it as a chapter in my book about of Southeast Asia, which world trade," said Chen Shui-shen, chairman of the been growing at 1 percent a Taiwan Bicycle Group. "As for investment, we must wait and see for a while, but I am going with a very open mind." Taiwan is the Taiwan is the

Many may also hold off bicycles and Mr. Chen is Mr. Yeh said. "We want to investment until it is clear chairman of the bicycle in- make Southeast Asia our madustry's association. "So far we have invested

too much in China, so we need to change the direction of our investment," Mr. Chen said. With about \$30 billion from Taiwan, China is the island's largest single overseas investment target. Taiwan's investment in all

year, but officials aim to double that pace.

"With land and labor shortages in Taiwan, we want to extend our producworld's biggest exporter of tion lines to Sontheast Asia."

jor destination for investment now.

The departure of the highprofile business delegation to the Philippines follows months of concerted diplomatic effort by Taiwan to raise its standing as a friend to troubled Southeast Asia.

China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, protested the initiative following a "vacation" by the Taiwanese vice president; Lien Chan, in Singapore. Mr. Lien was seen playing golf with senior officials and dined with Lee Kuan Yew, the senior minister.

Asian Debt to Raise Bond Defaults, Moody's Says

1998 as companies in Asia's emerging markets their banking systems and cash reserves. collapse under the weight of their debts, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said.

borrowers since World War II were in 1997, a have about \$100 billion in foreign currency debt. number that does not fully reflect "the extent or breadth of credit deterioration in Asian economies," Moody's reported Saturday, because most companies get their funds via bank logge or fine stronghout Asia," Moody's said these failures, in turn, "brought some of the larger most companies get their funds via bank logge or most companies get their funds via bank loans or private financing.

Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea got financial bailouts from the International Monetary

While help from government and foreign for \$155 billion previous year.

When a country's currency weakens, companies' debts rise as they need more money to pay Nineteen of the 20 bond defaults by Asian their bills. Indonesian banks and companies now.

sia, and Japan to the brink of insolvency.

Eloomberg News

Fund in 1997 totaling about \$100 billion as weakening currencies and mounting debts decimated their banking systems and cash reserves.

Fund in 1997 totaling about \$100 billion as weakening currencies and mounting debts decimated their banking systems and cash reserves.

loans, have so far prevented "a full-blown liquidity crisis," Moody's said, "the potential for future bond defaults in these countries has been

Moody's said that 61 companies worldwide defaulted on \$8.34 billion of long-term bonds in 1997, a 65 percent increase in dollar terms over 1996. Of the 1997 total, 41 defaults occurred in the second half of the year.

Bond sales worldwide in 1997 totaled \$243 billion, an increase of 19 percent from 1996. Of that amount, investment-grade issues accounted for \$155 billion, a 6 percent increase from the **ADVERTISEMENT**

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY (CDRS)

The undersigned announces that American Express Company has decided to terminate the Deposit Agreement. Holders of CDRs. of American Express Company are requested to deliver their CDRs aum div no 84 s.c.p. to the office of the requested to deliver their CDKs cum div. no. 84 s.c.n. to the office of the undersigned and give instructions for the delivery of the underlying shares to a custodian in the United States of America. The withdrawal charges of the AD.C. are for the Company but costs of the deposit of the shares with the custodian have to be born by the CDR-holder.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V. Amsterdam, 7 January 1998

Do Falling Rates Signal Era of Inflation-Free Growth — or a Dangerous Bubble?

By Carl Gewinz International Herald Tribune

PARIS - Long-term interest rates fell to modern lows in the United States and Continental Europe last week, rekindling a dispute among leading economists about whether a new era of inwhether a poteooally dangerous bubble is building in financial markets.

It is an argument economists have been waging for almost a year and those who trade, rather than running after the highsee a sustainable reduction in inflation are now even more convinced by the financial turmoil in Asia that slower world growth would keep inflation and interest rates at gives way to despair. lows. Meanwhile, skeptics of the new economic paradigm are not convinced events in Asia will derail the industrial ends in an overheating economy.

the yield oo 10-year U.S. government from 5.4 percent curreotly. But Morgan Stanley Dean Witter expects the yield will be at 7 percent by year-end.

flation-free growth has begun or views of the future, insomitional investors for the moment are playing it safe - putting mooey into government boods, the most liquid and easiest to er yield offered on less creditworthy, less liquid paper that could be more difficult to sell if the current euphoria

The rally in government-bond markets has not been fully reflected in other sectors, as evidenced by the widening of countries' business cycle that invariably spreads versus benchmark paper. One sector especially hard-hit last week was

To take two examples of the different subordinated perpetual floating rate notes. points of view, Lehman Brothers sees where interest can be suspended if the issuing banks report a loss. With worries paper at 5.1 percent by year-eod, down ebout the fallout from possible debt moratorium in East Asia, prices on perpetuals

fell by some 4 percentage points.

Overall, bankers report that the enor-Faced with such sharply differing mous volume of new issues in the international market, traditional for January, is somewhat misleading as large unsold positions remained with underwriters, who currently are willing to build inventory as issuers rush to lock in the favorable terms now available.

An exception to this trend is the \$4 billion of five-year global bonds being sold by the Federal National Mortgage Association, the U.S. governmentsponsored mortgage writer. Originally targeted to be at least \$2 billion, the issue attracted huge interest from institutional investors as e higher yielding surrogate

for Treasury cotes and the promise of

The notes are the first of an expected \$35 billion that the agency will raise this year through e series of benchmark issues that will be sold in a range of maturities from three to 10 years. The minimum size of each issue is to be \$2 billioo, and additional supplements may be sold in increments of \$500 million.

Underwriters estimated that more than half of the issue would be placed outside the United States. The paper is to be priced Monday to yield 19 basis points over comparably dated Treasury octes; that is a spread of 2 basis points less than Fannie Mae has traditionally paid issuing just domestic debt. On a \$4 billion issue, that amounts to an \$800,000 anoual saving on interest payments.

yield of 8.5 basis points over the London interbank offered rate, the notes ended trading at e yield of 7 basis points.

■ Jobless Data Fail to Dent Bonds

The drop in yield on the benchmark already positive inflation outlook.

30-year U.S. bond to a record low of 5.69

"The market doesn't care" about the market doesn't care and the market doesn't care. percent Friday was the first time since November 1985 that U.S. Treasury bonds gained after the government's moothly employment report showed an increase in jobs that exceeded expectations by such a wide margin, according to Logical Information Machines Inc., Bloomberg News reported Saturday.

The economy added 370,000 jobs in December, 162,000 more than analysts had forecast

senior debt. Offered at a discount to bought two-year ootes Friday amid expectations that fixed-income securities would cootinue to gain.

Mr. Nisbet said bonds have more room to rally because Asia's financial crisis will slow the U.S. economy, adding to an

"The market doesn't care" about the strong employment results, said John Burgess, e fund manager at Bankers Trust Global Investment Management,
"The focus is Asia, Asia, Asia."

Benchmark 30-year bonds rose 20/32, or \$6.25 per \$1,000 bond, to 105 31/32, sending the yield down 5 basis points, to 5.71 percent. Earlier, yields fell to 5.69 percent, their lowest level since 30-year

bonds went oo sale in 1977. The gains come as the economy added almost twice the 208,000 jobs analysts "It's amazing that the market is so almost twice the 208,000 jobs analysis resilient," said Garth Nisbet, a fund expected, while the unemployment rate

Most Active International Bonds

through the Euroclear system for the week end-ing Jan. B. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Argentine Peso 3.47 04/01/07 89.7592 3.8600 **Austrian Schilling** 5% 04/11/07 103.6000 5.5500

Belgian Franc 74 12/22/00 108,9600 7,1100 7 05/15/06 112,0000 6,2500

British Pound 94 Annington FRN 8.09 01/22/23 98.0000 8.2400
111 World Bank 6 03/01/00 99.7500 6.0200
164 Annington zero 01/10/23 16.1500 7.5300
207 Britannia FRN 6017 85/08/07 99.2000 8.0800
208 Aire Valley FRN 7.474 11/04/39 99.7500 7.4900
212 World Bank 6/9 10/07/07 100 1250 6.4900
213 Menril Lnch Frn 7.747 07/02/02 99.5200 7.7800
232 Money Store Frn 7.742 01/15/35 99.9789 7.7600
233 Abbey Notil TS 6 08/10/99 98.2758 6.1100
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12 Denmark	7	11/15/07	111,8700	6.260							
 39 Nykredíl 	7	10/01/29	99.9000	7.010							
45 Denmark	6	12/10/99	102,8400	5.830							
49 Denmark	8	05/15/03	114,0500	7.010							
53 Denmark	7	12/15/04		6.350							
- 55 Denmark	6	11/15/02		5.730							
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Asia-Pacific

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Tuesday

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Thursday

Jan. 15

Friday

Jan. 16

Expected Tokyo: Prime Minister Tony Blair of

13. He is to meet with Prime Min-

ister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Mon-

in the 7th EU-Japan summit the

Melbourne: Australia and New

Zealand Banking Group Ltd. releas-

Tokyo: The Bank of Japan releasee

figures on Japan'e wholesale price

& Poor's Corp. and Moody's in-

ree to re-investigate the nation's

count balance for November, as

and overseas securities invest-

Bengkok: Bank of Thailand an-

leases lebor force figures for De-

Singapore: The Institute of South-

east Asian Studies holds a forum et

the Shangri-La Hotel to discuss the

Sydney: Austrelia releases housing

political, economic, and business

outlooks for the Asien region.

finance figures for November.

ments for November.

elan reserves.

well as figures on Japan's domestic

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es job vacancies Index for Decem-

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This Week Britain remains in Japan until Jan.

index for December.

credit standing.

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A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Susiness News.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Celendar, Jan: 12-16

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52 Argenting 57 Depte FRN 60 Venezuela 1/7 BCo British FRN 6.646 (19/14/97)
178 Venezuelo FRN 634 (03/18/07)
179 Panama FRN 4 (07/17/16)
183 Mexico A FRN 6.693 12/31/19
185 Ecuador par 310 22/28/25
187 Mexico par A 614 12/31/19
191 USA 744 (05/15/16)

Basel, Switzerland: Yasuo Mat-

sushita, governor of the Bank of

ternational Settlements in Basel.

Japan, visits Switzerland to attend e

monthly meeting of the Bank for In-

96 L8 Schlesu 97 8 razil FRN 209 Russia 219 Surdegma FRN
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In the floating-rate note market, Midland Bank sold \$1 billion of five-year manager at Crabbe Huson Group. He rose 0.1 percentage point, to 4.7 percent.

New International Bond issues Compiled by Laurence Desvilettes

Amount Coup. (millions) Mat. % Price Floating Rate Notes Argentaria Global Finance Over 3-morth Libor, Nagoraliable, Fees 0.20%, (Morgan Stonley Inthi) Colsse Centrale Designations Over 3-mortin Libor. Horscolloble. Fees 0.175%. Denominations \$10,000. (J.P. Morgo du Quebec Coymodrid Infl Covmodrid Int V₆ 100,023 Below 3-month | Thor. Nanoulinhle Fees 8 (69), (Barcinus Copilal Gross) Den norske Bank Midland Bank 2003 0.05 99 847 Interest will be the 3-month Libor. Noncollable. Fees 0.075%. (Deutsche Maryon Granfell.) Popular Finance Suncorp Metway Over 3-month Libor, Honoralioble, Fans 0.15%, (Desrische Morgon Grenfell.) Bank of Nova Scoti 99.79 Interest will be the 2-month | thor: Noncolimble, Fees 0.1875%, (Borclays Copital Group.) Export Finance and Insurance Corp. Fixed-Coupons

6 1013/s 100.95 Reoffered at par. Noncestable, Fees 144%. (ABN-AMRO House Govett.) Repriered of 100.43. Noncollable, Fengible with aststanding issue, raising total amount to mission. Fees 1146. (CS First Saston.)

Council of Europe Reoffered at 99.82. Noncollable. Fungible with overlanding issue, raising total amount to \$500 million. Fees 176%. (SBC Warburg Dillon Read.) Ford Motor Credit KFW Intl Finance LB Rheinland-Pfalz Siemens Capital Corp.

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Prudential Corp. 6% 100.99 Soppi World Bonk 6% 101.009 100.10 Noncollable, Fees 1 1/4 (ABN AMRO House Govert.) Noncollable. Fees 0.35%, (Calsse des Depots et Consignations.

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2003 514 100,925 99.40 Reoffered of 99.30. Noncollable. Fees 176%. (TD Securities

resi will be 1119% in first year, 7% in years two and three, thereofter 15% less twice the 12. In Libor, Reoffered at 99.60, Noocallable, Fees 1,355%, (Banca Nationale del J. 2000) ola, Feas 1.355%. (Banco Nazionale del Lovero.) Americas Yield 5.74%. Reaffered at 5.966. Callable at 32.38 in 2028, Fees 0.334%. (Margan Stanley Intl.) European Bank for Dellas: Frost & Sullivan sponsors its Mobile Communications Conference, Jan. 12 - Jan. 14. Doubletree European Investment Bank ITL750,000 2018 51/2 100.085 99.03 Reoffered at 98.485, Nancallable, Fees 2%, (IMI Bank) Interest will be 104% in first year, 7% in year two and three, thereafter 15% less twice the 12-month Libor. Noncollable, Fees 1.085%. (Banca Comperciale Italiana.) **Detroit:** The Detroit Auto Dealers World Bank 1TL700,000 2010 101/2 1003/4 Association sponsors the 1998 International Auto Show, Jen. 10 -

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Jan. 19. Cobo Center. Ottawe: Canada Statistics releases November building permit figures Budapest: The Hungerian Central Statistical Office releases Decemand November motor vehicle sales ber consumer price index.

ladrid: Tha National Statistics Institute releases November industrial Rome: October retail sales numbers.

Seoul: Survey teams from Standard Rome: Istat releases October fig-Atlanta: The Federal Reserve Bank ures for trade with the European of Atlanta releases monthly index Union and November Non-EU

on manufacturing in the Southeastem United State Washington: Labor Department released December consumer price

Tokyo: Economic Planning Agency releases monthly economic report. Wednesday Tokyo: The Ministry of Finance re-Washington: Commerce Depart-Bonn: Chancellor Helmut Kohl ment reports December retail sales leases figures on Japan current-aç-

Last Week's Markets

Euromarts Weekly Sales

Reoffered at 99.27. Noncaliable. Fees 2%. (ING Barings.)

Reoffered at par. Nancollebie. Fees 1%. (TD Securities.)

Yield | 1.69%, Noncellable, Proceeds 65 million rand. Fungible with outs total amount to 5 billion cond. Fees 0.25%. (Nombras Bank.)

Exchangeable at 9,462.72, a 20% premium, for the cash value at the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Fees 244%, (SBC Worburg.)

Semigramually. Noncollicible. Convertible. Fees not disclosed. Terms to be set Feb. 9. (HSBC

speaks on "Europe's Opportunities

in the Age of Globalization." Union Szelen, 8 P.M. Rome: Istat releases November producer prices numbers.

Washington: Commerce Depart-

ment reports November business in-

ventories. Labor Department reports

Heisinki: Finland Statistics releases nounces the country's official for-December consumer-price index: November Industrial output figures. Sydney: Australia government re-Madrid: The government releases December inflation figures. Rome: November industrial production numbers.

initial weekly state unemployment compensation insurance claims.

Copenhagen: Danmarks Statistik releases October current-account and trade beience. Paris: Government releases third quarter 1997 gross domestic prodCaracas: Venezuela's industry and Trade Ministry releases December foreign investment figures. Washington: Federal Reserve reports industrial production for DeStock Indexes Money Rates

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Loss of Confidence in Asian Economies to Keep Dollar Aloft

By Carl Gewirtz tional Herald Tribune

PARIS - Widespread market rumors of impending coordinated intervention in Asian financial markets tamed the dollar's rally last week, but analysts expect the dollar to come roaring back as it becomes clear that intervention is unlikely soon.

"The massive capital flight out of Southeast Asia is an internal problem," said John Lipsky at Chase Manhattan Bank, "a loss of confidence in domestic

policies" that intervention can't restore. 'And even if you think intervention might be appropriate to try to break the self-perpetuating nature of the crisis, of

flight, which fuels further devaluation, it's simply not sensible until the yeadollar rate has been stabilized," said Jim O'Neill at Goldman Sachs in London.

As Richard Koo at Normura Research Institute in Tokyo observed, "half of the crisis in the Asian countries is due to the yen's weakness against the dollar."

For all the experts, getting things right in Tokyo - which means reviving domestic demand and spurring stronger economic growth — is critical to the process of stabilizing conditions in Southeast Asia. And all agree, Japanese policy still lacks the conviction needed to make intervention to bolster the yen a credible exercise.

Mr. Koo, an outspoken critic of Japcurrency weakness worsening the capital anese government foot-dragging in

tackling domestic problems, is upbeat about the prospect of policy initiatives to get the economy moving and the yen

Citing the government's plan to provide 30 trillion yen (\$226.4 billion) to repair the nation's financial system and about 3 trillion yen in tax cuts to increase consumer spending, Mr. Koo said that 'the policy debate is moving forward."

But not fast enough. Dispute over how the 30 trillion yen will be used is delaying the implementation of the. measure and the 3 trillion yen one-year tax cut is still woefully inadequate, he says, warning that conditions in Japan are likely to get worse before the government accepts the need for blanker dispersal of capital to financial instinations and more substantial and longerlasting tax cuts.

It's a grim view of the immediate outlook, but Mr. Koo believes that the necessary changes will occur within the next few months and well before the elections for the upper house of the Diet in July. And when they come, the yen will rally significantly, he predicts.

Gerard Lyons at DKB International in

London concurs with the overall picture. But in putting numbers on his forecast, Mr. Lyons sees the dollar, which ended last week at 132.15 year, first rising to 140 yen before it begins to fall back.

To critics who say Japan cannot afford a strong yen yet, Mr. Koo observes that Jananese industry is competitive at the current rate and that the nation's

But State Secretary Murdiono told

Members of Congress have "very

real reservations" about sending money

to help Southeast Asia recover from its

economic slump, the chairman of the

Senate Banking Committee, Alfonse D'Amato of New York, said Sunday,

It is crucial for the United States to

make sure the nations of Southeast Asia

are committed to "a discipline" of re-

forms, he said during an interview on

"It is the part as it relates to bailing out undisciplined private-sector corpo-

rations with taxpayers' money that raises concern, not only with myself, but

with a number of my colleagues, who

want ns to hold hearings to look into

Mr. D'Amato, a Republican,

Bloomberg News reported.

Antara that all the projects would "def-initely be developed eventually."

■ D'Amato Urges 'Discipline'

"real" trade surplus — adjusting for the 63 percent decline in the yen's value since early 1995 -"is already beyond the levels set in 1992-93" that caused so much trade friction with the United

The other wild card in this scenario is the Clinton administration's commitment to a strong dollar, a tool to dampen exports and overall growth so as to deter the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates and damaging the mood on Wall Street. But with the U.S. trade deficit expected to explode this year and growth forecast to slow, the commitment to a strong dollar may only last until that strength begins to hurts the United States, said Mark Cliffe at HSBC Markets in London.

SHORT COVER

Credit Suisse to Buy Asian BZW Units

LONDON (Bloomberg) - Credit Suisse First Boston will announce Monday that it has bought parts of Barclays PLC's Asian investment-banking business, BZW Asia Ltd., a spokeswoman for Credit Suisse said.

"I can confirm we will make an announcement Monday," said Bonnie Wu, spokeswoman for the bank in Hong Kong. She declined to give any details of

the purchase. After the sale, Barclays will be left with a trimmed-down investment-banking business, comprising mainly foreign-exchange and fixed-income units under the name Barelays Capital

ASIA: IMF Aide Upbeat on Jakarta Talks

Continued from Page 1

Sir Leon Brittan, made it clear that the European Union wanted Jakarta take 'very prompt' reform action.

He also pointedly refused to join crit-icism of the IMF, which has been accused by some Asian and Western economists of aggravating Asia's woes by forcing Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand into recession.

"I am not going to recommend changes to the IMF," Sir Leon said on Reuters Financial Television. "But I am certainly going to recommend to the countries concerned that very prompt action and very firm action be take of a structural kind, which in many cases may go beyond the particular recommendations of the IMF."

President Bill Clinton intervened in the Indonesian crisis Friday, telling Mr. Suharto in a telephone call that Jakarta should comply with IMF reforms fol-lowing signs that Jakarta was reneging on some of them.

Mr. Clinton announced at the same time that he would send Mr. Summers, with State Department and National Security Council officials, to Asia for con-

Mr. Fischer, the IMF official, said the IMF's talks with the Indonesian government would continue at least until Thursday. The fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, who is to hold talks in South Korea on Monday, is expected to join the negotiations in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Analysts said that the next few days will be the crucial for Indonesia's financial market as the government seeks to overcome a crisis of confidence in the leadership of Mr. Suharto.

Indonesia's best-known opposition leader, Megawati Sukamoputri, announced Saturday that she would make a bid for the presidency and that Mr. Suharto, who is 76 and has been in poor health recently, should retire at the end

of his term in March.

. In an unusually outspoken attack in a country where defaming the president is a criminal offense, she blamed the Suharto government for the financial

"The tragic and incomprehensible plunge in the rupiah's value to the present unbearably dangerous level clearly," Mrs. Megawati said, "demonstrates the people's loss of confidence in the present leadership and government administration."

She added, "If the nation ends np baving to bear this burden, then striped prison uniforms should be sewn for the economic criminals who have destroyed our nation and our economic future.

Bnt even though Mrs. Megawati's attack followed other recent calls by critics for Mr. Suharto to step aside, analysts said that he was unlikely to do

In a sign that the worst of crisis may have passed, there was no immediate rush to buy food and essentials Sunday in Jakarta as there had been the previous three days.

Fearing hyperinflation after the runiah's fall, panicky shoppers last week rushed supermarkets and shops to stock up on rice, milk, cooking oil and other

Antara reported Sunday that the government had increased short-term rice imports to 2 million tons from 1.5 million, and that controlled prices of rice and flour would not be raised.

In October, Indonesia was given a \$43 billion international loan package arranged by the IMF in exchange for agreement to apply painful reforms and austerity measures, including cuts in government spending, credit curbs, trade liberalization and improvements in financial regulation.

But an expansionary budget for 1998-99 presented by Mr. Suharto last week fueled investors' fears that Jakarta was reneging on the deal.



Stanley Fischer, left, first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, after an initial round of talks Sunday in Jakarta.

Stocks plunged more than 16 percent while the Indonesian rupiah plummeted to a record low of 11,000 to the dollar.

While it recovered in weekend trading to around 9,600, it was still worth about 65 percent less against the dollar than in July - prompting fears in the market of a default on Indonesia's foreign debts, which total more than \$130 billion.

Most of the debt is held by the private sector, and much of it is due to be repaid this year.

Mr. Suharto moved to counter international criticism of wasteful expenditure by announcing on Saturday the delay or review of 15 large infrastructure projects, including power plants, toll roads and an airport.

Relatives and other close associates of Mr. Suharto - who have been accused of trading on their political connections to amass fortunes during his years in power — are involved in most of the projects. -

Tobacco Firms Agree to Settle Texas Lawsuit Bloomberg News

TEXARKANA, Texas - U.S. cigarette makers agreed to pay Texas and its attorneys an undisclosed amount to settle an \$8.6 billion lawsuit over sick smokers

slated to begin this week, an official with the state attorney general's office said. A settlement — which is expected to range from \$12 billion to \$15 billion, or at least 50 percent more than Texas is seeking to recoup for treating smokers - is expected to be announced this

week, according to attorneys on both sides of the negotiations. A federal judge in Texarkana, where jury selection was scheduled to begin Monday, has postponed the first phase of the trial until Wednesday to let both

sides wrap up negotiations.

There has never been any doubt in the industry's mind that it could settle Texas on the same terms that it settled Florida and Mississippi," said David Adelman, an analyst at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co.

Philip Morris Cos., RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. and other tobacco companies have sought to settle suits in Texas and Minnesota this month to avoid hindering the \$368.5 billion national accord struck in June after months of talks between tobacco companies and states that had filed lawsuits. The national agreement — which still

needs congressional and White House approval — would end the state cases and class-action suits, limit the industry's exposure to damages awards and impose marketing and regulatory restrictions.

Tobacco companies have been racing

to settle the state lawsuits before they go to trial to avert publicized attacks on the industry that might influence members of Congress to balk at backing an accord.

Hashimoto to Unveil Finance-Sector Plan

TOKYO (Bloomberg) -- Prime Minister Rymaro Hashimoto is expected to propose to Parliament on Monday a 30 trillion yen t\$226.4 billion) transfusion for Japan's banks and depositors.

The bailout is intended to revive a financial industry beset with bad toans. tumbling stock prices and sagging profits, and could affect other Asian countries.

Japan's neighbors are counting on help from Japan to help save them from a financial meltdown.

The parliamentary session that begins Monday "will present Hashimoto his greatesi challenge as prime minister," said John Neuffer, research fellow at Mitsui Marine Research. "The economy is a mess, markets around the region are collapsing, the ven is at its lowest in six years and his polls are

Iran Lowers Forecast For Revenue From Oil

TEHRAN (AP) - Iran has towered oil revenue projections for its next fisca! year, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday, reflecting worries that international prices could continue their downward slide.

The agency quoted Mohammad Baqer Nonbakht, head of Parliament's budget commission, as saying oil revenue projections had been adjusted to 28,509 billion rials (\$9.5 billion) in the budget bill for the fiscal year beginning March 21. He said the figure was 7.5 percent lower than an earlier estimate.

Oil prices in the budget bill were envisaged at \$17.50 a barrel. On Friday. February crude oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange his a 29month low of \$16.60 a barrel.

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And the second والمناها والمراجع 1.1.75 year lows this past week - while stocks

are struggling — bonds have become the asset of the moment on Wall Street. Byraising the specter of defiation in a speech on Jan. 3, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board,

market for the last three months. It would be great if the best financial

• First question: Why do you think you need bonds? Are you anxious to lock in current yields because you need

INVESTING

coming years? Or are you just eager to have a "buffer" against a potentially sharp drop in the stock market? Or is your interest more speculative: Are you looking to make a short-term killing, should bond yields continue to decline, thus boosting bonds' principal value?

may vary greatly depending on how you answer the 'why' question.

Investors Take a Fresh Look at Bonds

By Tom Petruno Los Angeles Times

A lot of people who never thought they would look at a bond, much less buy one, suddenly have had a change of heart. With long-term bond yields at 20-

just cranked up the wattage on the spotlight that has been shining on the bond

advice today could simply be: sell stocks, buy bonds. Unfortunately, for many investors the issue is far more complicated.

Should yoo buy bonds? Here's a basic primer on how to decide:

income to live off of, and fear that

interest rates could drop a lot more in

The type of bond investment you buy An investor who needs income, for

example, may want to invest in a "laddered" bond portfolio. That involves buying individual bonds (such as U.S. Treasury issues) maturing in stepped fashion - say, in two years, in five years and in seven years. The idea: You lock in yields, but ensure that some of your money is coming back to you in

looking to make a fast buck if bonds continue to rally may want to buy longterm, zero-coupon Treasury bonds which effectively pay all of your return at mannity and thus are the most aggressive way to bet on interest rate trends.

• Second question: What are your

investment return expectations? Stocks generate a higher rate of return over the

can lose 50 percent or more of their value in bad times, are inherently riskier than bonds, which tend to be far more stable thanks to their interest component.

taking the extra risk in stocks over time. Since 1925, U.S. stocks' average annnal total return (price gains plus dividends) has been about 11 percent. In that same period the average annual total return from long-term Treasury

stocks' performance has been far above the historical norm: The average stock munual fund has returned three times as much as the average bond fund (121

interested more in capital appreciation than capital preservation, you do not want to be out of the stock market.

sider money-market accounts rather than bonds. The average money-market mutual fund now yields about 5.3 percent. The yield on a five-year Treasury note is 5.41 percent. So you are not being paid much more today to assume the risk of locking up your money for five years, versus keeping it in a safe short-term account.

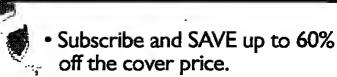
If you shift money to bonds or bond mutual funds to hedge against stocks, you may have transaction costs to get in, and then to get out. Plus, if interest rates surprise everybody and rise instead of falling in the months ahead, your bond

If all you really want is a parking place for cash until stock prices get cheaper, or other investment opportunities arise, money-market funds or other short-term accounts may be your best option.

bonds for the long-term, try to do it in a tax-sheltered account, If possible, make that shift in your tax-sheltered retirement accounts.



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MICROSOFT: Set-Top Windows or Java?

Continued from Page 1

Today's one-way channels will be complemented by the equivalent of personal computer programs that have been converted for the television screen, programs such as bill-paying applications, e-mail or computer games.

Mr. Malone sees this as nirvana for the cable-TV industry, which has consistently promised new services, such as home banking, that it has proved unable to deliver. He wants his company to reap a portion of each transaction that would be made by the new set-top boxes, which TCI plans to introduce in 1999. In his vision of the future, each of these

new interactive channels will be written

in computer programming languages that will be linked either to Microsoft's

Windows CB operating system or in Sun's Java programming language. TCI is the second-largest U.S. cable operator, with its boxes in 12 million of the 65 million cable-equipped homes. The biggest Time-Warner Inc., is still in negotiations with a variety of potential suppliers of software and hardware.

Microsoft last year invested \$1 bil-

lion in another cable company, Comcast

Corp. Brian Roberts, the president of Comcast, said, "The industry has been searching for a new revenue stream for a number of years, and the prospect of this convergence is very promising."
Mr. Malone is using Sun's Java as an additional layer of software to offer

more choices to software developers and an alternative to Microsoft. The advantage of Java is that it potentially permits software developers to write one program that will run on many different types of hardware. That could be important if there are many different

types of competing hardware in the boxes distributed by cable companies. But on Saturday, Mr. Malone acknowledged that to run the Java alternative, it would be necessary to add additional memory chips to the set-top box. That, said industry executives,

could end up consigning Sun to the same role as the losing operating sys-tems of the early days of the PC era.

People familiar with the cable agreement signed by Sun and TCI on Friday said that to avoid this, Sun's chairman, Scott McNealy, had agreed to pay TCI the additional costs to insure that there was room for the Java standards.

Several people familiar with the deal said it could amount to as much as \$10 to \$12 a machine. Executives at Sun declined to comment.

At the same time, Mr. Malone also said Saturday that TCI was continuing

discussions with Microsoft oo a possible \$1 billion investment to help build an interactive TV network more quickly.
One cabte industry chief executive, who asked not to be named, said that the industry was badly in need of new sources of revenue and, at a practical level, it might be worth it to let Microsoft dominate if it can help add new revenue sources. "Cable has not had a big new product in years," he said. We need the catalyst of Silicon Valley

Although the battle has now been oined, it is clearly not over. In addition to Microsoft and Sun, Oracle Corp., Intel Corp., IBM and AT&T Corp. are all still jostling for a place at the table — or inside the new digital set-top box. Moreover, while Mr. Gates proposed a new computer-oriented digital tele-

vision standard called HDO in his Con-

sumer Electronics Show speech Satur-

day, the nation's television broadcasters

to move ahead."

have still not picked a standard. Then there is the largest manswered question; Do television viewers care about any of this? The computer industry is placing a heavy bet that the nation's couch potatoes will be willing to open their wallets for these new services. But with many U.S. homes already paying \$25 or more a month for cable, there is still little proof that they will be willing to foot the bill for the much-hyped interactive television of the future.

the not-too-distant future.

By contrast, an investor who is merely

long run than bonds.
Why is that so? Because stocks, which

Thus, you should be rewarded for

boods has been about 5.3 percent, or roughly half-of stocks' returns. Over the last five years, however,

percent versus 40 percent).

Investors might infer from that huge gap that bonds have some catching up to do - which could happen if stocks' returns fall while bonds' returns simply match their historical norm. But in the long run, if you are still

If what you want is a temporary bedge against falling stock prices, con-

bet may lose you money.

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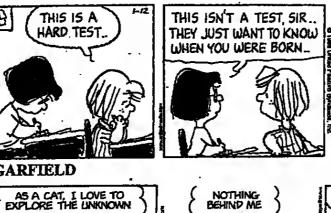
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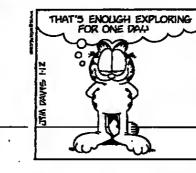
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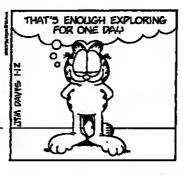
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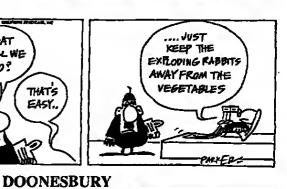


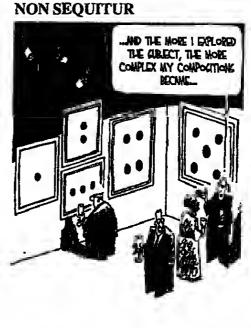
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Debate Over Nitrogen-Rich Training Rooms

By Matthew E. Mantell New York Times Service

YVASKYLA, Finland - Tourists can't book Rooms 156 through 160 at the Hotel Rantasipi Laajavuori. Few would, even if they could.

Why would anyone want to stay in an airtight room suffased with enough nitrogen to duplicate the rarefied air of a "mountaintop? The answer involves some of the world's top endurance athletes, whose use of "altitude housing" is the latest technological move in a catand-mouse game of sports science, bi-ological manipulation and regulation of techniques that enhance athletic per-

When Samppa Lajunen, the 1997 aordic combined World Cup champion, checks into an altitude room, his bebavior is quite ordinary: dining in the hotel's restaurant, surfing the television and getting lots of rest.

But the 19-year-old Finn is up to something special. Along with other elite lodgers, including hiathletes, cross-country skiers, rowers and long-distance runners, he is gaining the same aerobic advantage he would from a visit to the Alps, raising his red-hlood-cell count and increasing his blood's ca-pacity for carrying oxygen to his

When these athletes follow a stay in an altitude room with a training session near sea level, they are using a controversial conditioning program called hiving high and training low. The tech-· nique has raised questions of health and fairness for competitors and for administrators charged with ensuring a level playing field.

For one thing, altitude housing is available in only a few northern European countries. More significant, a three-week stay in altitude housing provides the same boost to red-bloodcell counts as two banned performanceenhancing practices: blood doping and injecting crythropoietin, or EPO, a genetically engineered copy of a hormone produced in the kidney that regulates the production of red blood ceils.

EPO was created to stimulate the production of red blood cells in people with kidney failure, but it can also be used to increase the oxygen capacity of endurance athletes.

So can blood doping, which involves the removal of blood that is then restored to the body just before competition to enhance the circulation of oxygen to the muscles.
"In 1989," recalled Heikki Rusko, a

developer of altitude housing, "a Finnish ski coach for the Italian national team and the Norwegian rowing coach told me that they felt the athletes who were doing the best most likely had gotten blood transfusions."

Blood doping was made illegal after word leaked out that seven U.S. cyclists had engaged in the practice at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. That did not stop it, but athletes looking for an edge began turning to EPO, for which there

are no approved tests. There is also no lack of risk. Improper use of EPO can lead to excessive thickening of the blood and can produce clots, strokes or heart fail-

ure, especially in hot weather. There have been suspicions that EPO was a factor in the deaths of some 20 bicycle racers, all under 35, since the late The Finns, concerned about doping. first conducted tests to measure the red-

hlood-cell and hemoglobin values of competitors at their nordic national championships in 1988. Rusko pressured his country's ski federation to insist that the sport's world governing body introduce the examinations too. That happened for the first time at the world championships held in Lahti, Finland, in 1989.

The tests were given at the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, and will be given again at the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, where biathletes and cross-country skiers will undergo pre-race blood tests. Athletes with abnormally high values will not be allowed to compete.

The altitude house was developed in 1993 by Rusko, director of Jyvaskyla's KIHU Research Institute for Olympic Sports, as a safe means of improving red-blood-cell levels, allowing athletes to compete on level turf with opponents

"I wanted Finland's endurance athletes to have an acceptable way to increase their volume of red blood cells,"
-Rusko said. "This way they would not need to use EPO to be competitive."

The idea for the altitude house had its roots in a sports-medicine conference Rusko attended in 1991, where he heard Tim Stray-Gundersen and Ben Levine. American researchers, discuss the value of living high and training low.

At the time, conventional wisdom called for training at elevation to increase red-cell count. While that approach led to fitness, Rusko said, he felt it was not the answer for most athletes. An exception, he said, would be someone born at altitude, such as Kenyan distance runners, who are acclimated to training at elevation and thrive under those conditions.

The problem with training high," he said, "is that your training speeds are lower than at sea level. Next, your heart rate and blood-lactate concentration, at the same velocity, is higher. The stroke volume of your heart and cardiac output is smaller. Your muscle power decreases.
All these factors combined mean that you have to train at lower velocity."

Convinced of the value of living high and training low, Rusko had to overcome a towering hurdle: Finland's flat topography. Drawing on the knowledge of a local gas-company engineer, he came up with his plan for an altitude room.

The components inclode a nitrogen generator, an air compressor, a mixing system and two independent control mechanisms. Nitrogen is combined with amhient air, and the compound is conducted to the virtually impermeable altitude room. For safety's sake, the controls are programmed to stifle the nitrogen should the oxygen concentration drop too far.

"Under normal conditions, we have 21 percent oxygen and 79 percent nitrogen," Rusko said. "In the altitude house, nitrogen is mixed into the air to reduce the oxygen to 15 percent. And that corresponds to the partial pressure of oxygen at 2,500 meters," or about

The elevation that would prodoce optimum conditioning remains unknown, Rusko said.

Still, his research proves that living at 2,500 meters does augment red-bloodcell levels. It avoids one danger of actually living at altitude: acute mountain sickness, and its headaches, parched throat, nausea and dizziness.

In 1993, the first altitude house, costing \$100,000, was erected at the sports institute in Vookatti, Finland. By 1995, altitude bouses had sprung up in both Norway and Sweden. (Germany has one, too). A year later, the Hotel Rantasipi Laajavuori sported its five alpine. quarters and, in 1997, the Rovaniemi Sports Institute housed the Finns' third

MONG the athletes using altitude houses is Bjorn Dahlie of Norway, the defending World Cap champion in nordic skiing, who holds a commanding lead in this year's World Cup standing.

While most nordic athletes have greeted these developments with enthusiasm, a few, citing moral and health considerations, have not.

One prominent Finn who refused to use altitude housing is 28-year-old Valentin Kononen, the 1995 50-kilometer race-walk world champion.

"My doctors told me there are viruses and bacteria in the alp house," he said, "because it's like living in a plastic bag. The Alp house is not natural. It's a synthetic way to create more EPO in the body. If you say yes to the Alp house,

you are saying yes to doping."

Echoing these sentiments is Dr. Timo Seppala, chairman of Finland's Anti-Doping Committee. "It's unethical for a coach to tell an athlete, 'Go live in an altitude house,' when there aren't many studies about the physical risks in-volved," he said. "Theoretically, it's possible to get thrombosis and pulmonary disease. Even die."

Dr. Seppala acknowledged, however, that anybody who climbs a mountain of 2,500 meters faces the same perils as athletes bunking in altitude dwellings.

Mika Myllyla, the 1997 50-kilometer cross-country skiing world champion, has used the altitude house. So have two of his teammates: Jari Isometsa, last year's world championships bronze medalist at 15 kilometers, and Harri Kirvesniemi, that event's winner at the 1989 worlds.

'Practically everyone in Finland's athletic community accepts the altitude house," Dr. Seppala said with a shrug. "But, of course, I will always talk about the ethical and health issues surrounding the apparatus. Then it's up to the athlete to make a decision.



Swimmers hitting the water at the start of the men's 25-kilometer open-water race at the world championships.

Swimming Awaits Doping Report

PERTH. Australia - The doping case against the Chinese swimmer Yuan Yuan and her coach; Zhou Zhewen, was put oo bold Sunday as officials awaited documents detailing the amount of growth hormone seized from Yuan's travel bags Thursday.

Gunnar Werner, secretary of FINA, the governing body of world swimming. said that all evidence had been heard in the case against the pair and that he expected they would soon leave Perth.

Werner, who said earlier that he was upset at Australian Customs officials for telling the media about finding the drugs in Yuan's baggage, was at odds with the government department again Sunday. He told a press conference that slow bureaucracy was to hlame for the lack of swifter action on the case.

He said that FINA had been forced to draft an official letter to the customs department Sunday demanding the report, and that it had not been forthcoming becanse Australians do not work on weekends.

But an Australian Customs spokes-

man, Chris Schofield, said that a FINA official, calling on behalf of its director, Cornel Marculescu, had been told twice Saturday that the matter had been passed on to the Australian Sports Com-

Schofield said the laboratory that carried out the tests on the seized liquid had been aothorized to send the report to the commission, which would deal directly with FINA. "The final report will take a few days because there is still some work to be done," Schofield said. A commission spokesman said the

report would be passed on to FINA as soon as possible. Werner said it was legally important to establish the exact level of growth hormones seized.

Zhon and Zhewen were summoned home from the World Swimming Championships after 13 vials of a banned human growth hormone were found packed in a thermos seized from Yuan's baggage. Customs said that the substance "is, or contains, growth hor-

Chinese sports officials have said that Zhou and Yuan, who turned 22 on SunFINA doping inquiry was complete and would be punished for their "mis-

Under FINA's rules, Yuan and Zhou face a mandatory four-year ban for "trafficking" a growth hormone, so-matropin, a sophisticated muscle-building drug that is impossible to detect by the conventional urine tests still used in swimming.

 Alexei Akatiev won his second open-water gold medal of the championships Sunday.

Akatiev, who won the men's fivekilometer race Wednesday, was first in the 25-kilometer swim. Tobie Smith of the United States won the women's 25kilometer race.

"It was a very hard race with very difficult waves," said Akatiev. "I'm very fired but very happy and thrilled to have two gold medals."

David Meca of Spain, fifth in the five-

kilometer race, was second in Sunday's event to claim the silver medal and Gabriel Chaillon of Argentina was (AP, Reuters)

2 Victories Give Maier **Prominence** In Super-G

William Esta

SCHLADMING, Austria - Her-

mann Maier of Austria captured his second World Cup Super-Giant Slalom victory of the weekend on Sunday.

For the second day in a row, he won on the hard-packed Planai piste at Schladming. The slope was so tricky that a third of the first 21 skiers lost control and missed gates.

Not Maier, however. The 25-year old notched his sixth victory of the season with a time of 1 minute, 14. 84 seconds, beating his teammate Andreas Schifferer by 1.19 seconds. Stefan Eberharter, another Austrian, finished third with a time of 1:16.14.

Peter Runggaldier of Italy was the best non-Austrian, tying for fourth place with Rainer Salzgeber of Austria in 1:16.54.

Maier's finish gave the Aostrians their 13th victory this season, by far the best of any nation.

Temperatures were just above freezing, and the hard snow and alternating sunshine and shade made the two-kimany. Maier seemed untroubled. "It's a victory," he said. "I was pretty well in control." lometer (1.2 mile) course a challenge for

In the super-G standings, Maier has 300 points, Eberharter has 220, and Schifferer — whose best discipline has traditionally been the downhill -- has

Maier has 1,019 combined World Cup points, with Eberharter in second place with 648. Schifferer has 566 points.

On Saturday, Maier had won the Super-Giant Slalom by more than a second, finishing in 1 minute, 14.95 seconds. Eberharter was second in

In third place was Luca Cattaneo of Italy in 1:16.36, followed by Frederik Nyberg of Sweden, who clocked in at 1:16.57. Another Swede. Patrik Jerbyn, finished fifth in 1:16,85.

 In Bormio, Italy, Hilde Gerg of Germany ended Ylva Nowen's run of four consecutive World Cup statom vice tories on Sunday. Gerg rallied in the second leg to claim her second victory of the season and the fourth of her

The triumph capped a successful weekend for Germany's women alpine skiers and meant that Gerg kept the pressure on her compatriot, Katja Seizinger, in the battle for the coveted overall title.

Nowen, a Swede, who had won the four previous slaloms, finished a distant ninth, 1.61 seconds behind the winner.

Gerg, whose only previous slalom success came in the little-raced parallel event in the American resort of Mammoth Mountain in November, was the second German winner in two days. Martina Ertl won the giant slalom on Saturday. In second place after the first leg.

Gerg attacked the icy piste in her second run. She clocked a total time of one minute, 35.01 seconds to swap places with the first-leg leader, Kristina Koznick of the United States. "I can't explain why I'm skiing so well in the slalom," said Gerg, who had

never finished higher than ninth in a slalom until this season. "I think part of the reason is that we've had a series of slaiom races and I've been able to focus' Koznick, who had been seeking her-

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first World Cup triumph, finished in 1:35.28, giving her five top-four finishes in six races and bolstering American hopes of an alpine skiing medal at the Nagano Olympics.

This is another important experience for me hut my goal was to win today after finishing second in Lienz,' said Koznick, who rooms with Julie Parisien, the last American to win a World Cup slalom, six years ago. Spela Premar of Slovenia, whose

only World Cup victory came in Bormio, continued to enjoy her stay at the Italian resort, picking up her second consecutive third place finish with a time of 1:35.52. The home favorite, Deborah Compagnoni of Italy, placed

Kwan's Perfect Presentation Dazzles won the last two world championships: By Amy Shipley Washington Post Service

PHILADELPHIA — The crowd was dropping hints, chanting "Six! Six!" but the judges didn't need any nudging. At the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Michelle Kwan had just finished her long program, taking the ice thinking of cloods and angels. Somehow, her program seemed a combination of both, and perhaps a few other heavenly things.

As she clutched a pair of stuffed animals thrown onto the ice by fans and sat under the arm of her coach, Frank Carroll, her scores flashed across the scoreboard and the sellout crowd of 19,082 erupted again. Kwan received eight perfect 6.0s for presentation breaking the U.S. nationals record for take." women she set Thursday in the short program with seven perfect scores.

And with that, she regained the national title she had lost last year and sealed her place on the 1998 U.S. Olympic team.

The rest of Saturday night went almost as sweetly as Kwan's program. Tara Lipinski recovered from her fall in the short program, rebounding from fourth place into second overall. And Nicole Bobek, second after the short program, finished third overall, skating a flawless — if safe — program that brought the crowd to its feet.

A fall by Tonia Kwiatkowski essentially pushed her out of Olympic-team contention, giving her a fourth-place overall finish.

Shortly after the performances, the U.S. Figure Skating Association's in-ternational committee made official what everyone suspected: Kwan, Lipinski and Bobek will represent the United States in the Olympics next month in Nagano, Japan. These three women have won the last

four U.S. titles. Kwan and Lipinski have

Bobek has been a world bronze medalist. Such credentials immediately raised the question of a possible medal sweep in Nagano. "I think we can absolutely do one-two-three," Bobek, 20, said. "No prob-

lem. I think this is absolutely one of the strongest teams."

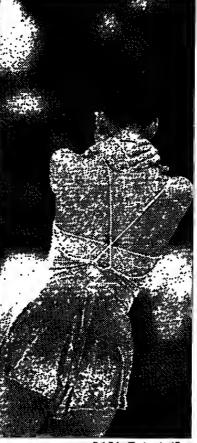
To regain the national title, Lipinski, 15. would have had to finish in first place, and Kwan would have had to drop to third or lower. But Lipinski didn't have such big goals. She said she was satisfied to have made amends for her fall the other night: "It felt great, especially after having a so-so short program. To come back

even stronger is very exciting." She said the fall was "a fluke, a silly mis-"I was disappointed, but coming in and skating this long program with the pressure of making the Olympic team, that really gave me a lot of confidence,"

Lipinski said. Kwan, 17, known for her poise and grace, dazzled the crowd and the judges with seven triple jumps, including a couple of triple toe loops. That was the jump she cut out of her short program because it bothered the still-healing

stress fracture in her left toe.

"I was just thinking 'Have fun,' "
she said. "Every time I hear the music I think of angels and clouds and the feeling of flying. Nothing can stop me. I took one thing at a time and by the end of the program 1 just thought: 'I'm free. I'm gone. Cloud Nine, here I come.'"



Michelle Kwan preparing to take a bow after completing her program.

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BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

F an opponent shows a six-Leard suit, one never wishes to play in game in that suit. The first exception to that rule ever seen in this column, and perhaps anywhere, occurred on the diagramed deal. Not only did South play in four hearts after East had made a weak jump overcall in that suit, but he emerged with an overtrick and prevented East from making a heart trick.
South was Mel Colchamiro

who this year retained his title as Long Island Player of the Year, based on tournament performance. North was his wife, Janet, who was the runner-up. She opened one diamond and doubled for takeout when the two-heart over-

call was passed around to her. South passed for penalties hut made an S.O.S. redouble and

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North and South were vulnerable. 20

East retreated to two spades. South overruffed. He exited had to think again when West been doubled, but East would claimed the last four tricks for probably have escaped with a an overtrick. And if East had penalty of 500, or even 300. discarded in the diagramed South preferred to try for a position, South would have vulnerable game, and chose

> known six-card suit. The diamond king was led, and South won with dummy's ace, a decision that would have been wrong if East had held more than one diamond. He led the heart nine for a marked finesse and shifted to a low club. East put up the ace and led a spade, won with

dummy's king. O Q
South took the cluh king. the spade ace and the club queen, leaving the endingshown at right. When the club 10 was led

from dummy, East ruffed and

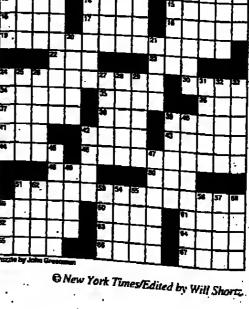
That contract could have with the diamond jack and had a pleasant choice behearts in the teeth of East's tween ruffing and discarding to make the same overtrick.

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Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 9



SPORTS

Piqued as Ever, Pippen Returns

His Foot Healed, Bulls' No. 2 Star Lends a Hand in Warriors' Defeat

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Two months ago, Scottie Pippen was so unhappy he pledged to never play again for the

Oo Saturday night, his mind changed. His sore foot healed, Pippen rejoined the team he helped lead to five of the last seven NBA titles.

Pippen, who had missed the Bulls' first 35 games after preseason foot surgery, started the game against the Golden State Warriors, played 31 minutes, scored 14 points and had four rebounds and five assists,

"I can't penalize my teammates by staying away from the game, so I got to get back on court and do what I do best," Pippen said after the Bulls' 87-82

Pippen made public his grievances against the team in November. He was upset because he felt he had not received the respect he deserved from management, namely the team's general manager, Jerry Krause, and because the Bulls had tried to trade him last summer. He is also, by today's NBA market, under-paid. He will make \$2.7 million this season, the final year of his contract,

Named one of the top 50 players in NBA history, he ranks 122d in salary in

He says he has oo regrets about going public with his complaints. "This is the frustration I've been going through for the last couple of years and over the summer, having to deal with all the trade talk and things of that nature," he said. "I think a player of my caliber de-

serves better, so I had to stand up and speak out for myself." Pippen said he did not know if he would be traded before oext month's deadline, adding that he preferred now

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to finish the season with the Bulls. But he said his relationships with management were still damaged. Pippen was cheered loudly the first time he touched the ball, and then again

when he hit his first shot — the first hasket of the game.

aboot it, how important it is to us. He made his decision without input from

Jordan bailed out the Bulls, scoring 17 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter on Saturday night. Dennis Rodman had 16 rebounds for the Bulls, who have won their last 14 home games to improve to 18-1 at the United Center.

Raptors 102, Cavaliers 93 Damon Stoudamire scored 34 points as Toronto beat reeling Cleveland. The Raptors

NBA ROUNDUP

held off a late rally by the host Cavs, who played shiggishly two nights after a demoralizing loss to Seattle.

Lloyd Daniels, who signed a 10-day contract with Toronto on Jan. 6, scored 21 points as the Raptors snapped a sixgame losing streak and improved their record to 5-30.

Temberwoives 108, Nets 101 Tom Gugliotta scored 24 points, including six in the final four minutes, as Minpesota beat New Jersey.

Sam Mitchell added 18 points and Stephoo Marbury had 17 for the Tim-berwolves. Keith Van Horn and Kerry Kittles each scored 22 points for the Nets, who had their four-game home winning streak snapped.

Magic 90, Cettics 82 Rony Seikaly had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Orlando outscored visiting Boston 29-5 from the foul line.

The victory was only the third in the last 13 games for the Magic, who have struggled to find consistent scoring with Penny Hardaway, Nick Anderson and Derek Strong on the injured list. Boston, which never led, has lost four straight in a span of five days.

Antoine Walker led the Celtics with 21 points and 12 rebounds before being ejected with 1:09 remaining after hanging oo the rim after a dunk and drawing his second technical foul.

Pacers 84, Mavericks 79 Reggie Michael Jordan said he was glad to Miller's 3-pointer with 32.5 seconds left have his All-Star sidekick back. "It's gave Indiana the lead for good, and the

about time," Jordan said. "It was all his decision. He had time enough to think quarter deficit for a victory over the quarter deficit for a victory over the Mayericks in Dallas.

Miller scored 24 points, Rik Smits had 14 and Mark Jacksoo added 13 for the Pacers, who have won five of six. Shawn Bradley's 17 points and 14 re-bounds led the Mavericks, who have lost 17 of 18.

Jazz 111, Rockets 84 In Houston, Karl Malone scored 24 points and Utah's coach, Jerry Sloan, woo his 600th NBA game as the Jazz beat the injury-depleted Rockets. Utah has won six straight and 10 of its last 12 games. Houstoo has lost eight of its last 11, including four straight at home.

Sloan improved his career record to 600-370. His victory total includes 506 with the Jazz and the rest with the Chicago Bulls from 1979 to 1982.

Houstoo played without four injured starters — Charles Barkley, Clyde Drexler, Hakeem Olajuwon and Matt

Spurs 109, Kings 67 Tim Duncan scored 28 points, David Robinson added 24 and the host Spurs rebounded from a crushing loss in Phoenix with a rout of A night after their five-game winning

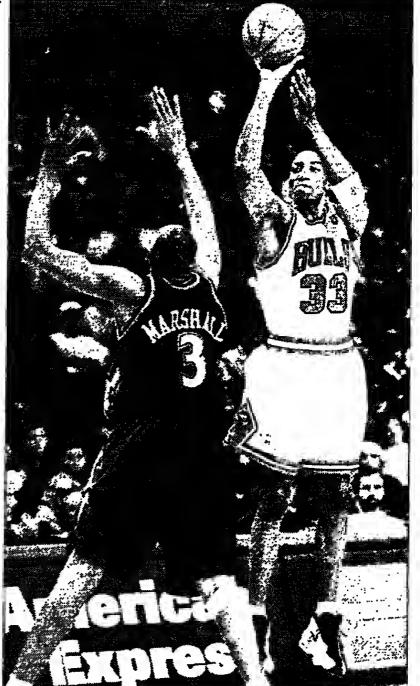
streak was snapped in a 21-point loss to the Suns, the Spurs ended Sacramento's winning streak at four games.

The Kings scored just 40 points over the final three quarters after finishing the first period tied at 27-27.

Bucks 95, Trail Blazers 90 In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 23 points, and Armon Gilliam had four of his 21 in overtime as the Bucks defeated Port-

Kenny Anderson scored a season high 31 points and Rusheed Wallace had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Portland, but the Trail Blazers still extended their losing streak to four games.

Portland's coach, Mike Dunleavy, received scattered boos during pregame introductions. It was his first trip back to Milwaukee since resigning last April after five straight losing seasons - four as coach and one as general manager of



Scottie Pippen, back in action after missing 35 games with an injured foot, going up for a jump shot against the Warriors' Donyell Marshall.

Mickelson Leads, but **Hot Duval Gives Chase** New York Times Service

CARLSBAD, California — What sounded improbable to David Duval just several months ago is now very possible. Entering the final round of the Mercedes Open, Duval was in position to become the first man since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win four consecutive starts on the PGA Tour.

Duval hit a six-under-par 66 he enjoyed on Saturday, when birdies came in nunches, mistakes were at a minimum and momentum was on his side.

Chasing history, he ended Saturday at 12 under par, one stroke behind Phil Mickelson. Four other players were within three strokes of the lead.

John Cook, the first-round leader, and Nick Price were tied at 11 under, while Gabriel Hjerssted and Frank Nobilo were at 10 under.

Miekelson, who shot a two-under 68 Saturday, had a chance to take a two-stroke lead into Sunday, but he bogeyed

the 18th hole. The completion of his round ended a long day. Rain suspended Friday's second round with most of the 30-man field still on the course, Mickelson played 28 holes Saturday, and Duval 29, yet Mickelson showed how badly he wanted to win hy heading straight for

Tar Heels Hit Free Throws

the driving range.

The Associated Press

Antawn Jamison scored 26 points and No. 1 North Carolina made a season-high 35 free throws Saturday to beat Virginia, 81-73. The Tar Heels (17-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) won for

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

the 33d time in 34 games. The Cavaliers (8-7, 1-2) fell to 3-55 in Chapel Hill.

No. 2 Duke 75, No. 13 Florida St. 63 In Tallahassee, Roshown McLeod scored 25 points as Duke (14-1, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Confereoce) handed the Seminoles (12-4, I-3 ACC) a secood straight loss.

San Diego St. 81, No. 21 Hawaii 72 In San Diego, San Diego State reg-istered its first victory over a ranked team in 10 years.

Hawaii, in the AP's Top 25 for the first time since January 1974, had its six-game winning streak snapped. The Rainbows (11-2, 0-1 Western Athletic Conference) were playing their first game on the mainland this season.

Wyoming 58, No. 12 New Mexico 55 At Laramie, Wyoming, Gregg Sawyer scored 18 points and Jeron Roberts added 17 to lead Wyoming (11-2) past the Lobos (11-2).

The Blues' Jim Campbell, left, taking a spill after colliding with the

Messier Joins Elite With 1,000th Assist

Mark Messier became the sixth NHL player to record 1,000 career assists when he helped set up Alex Mogilny in the second period of a 2-2 tie between the Vancouver Canucks and Florida

Messier's 23rd assist of the season came oo a power play with seven seconds remaining in the second period Saturday night. With Robert Svehla serving a fiveminute penalty for spearing. Messier fed pass to Trevor Linden, who deflected the puck over to Mogilay.

Mogilny was playing his first game with the Canucks in almost a month after missing 10 games with a groin

Messier joined three other active players in the 1,000-assist club, which is led by the all-time leader and Messier's former teammate, Wayne Gretzky, who has 1,873 assists.

Radek Dvorak tied the game for Flor-Flames' Derek Morris in the first period of St. Louis's 5-1 victory. ida with 8:35 to play in the third period

when he converted a pass from Ray wrist shot handcuffed Felix Potvin, Whitney for his sixth goal of the sea-

Hurricanes 2, Islanders 1 Bates Battaglia's first NHL goal came at 1:59 of overtime as visiting Carolina beat the Islanders, handing New York its 10th consecutive loss.

Penguins 4, Devils 1 In Pittsburgh, Stu Barnes scored three consecutive goals

NHL ROUNDUP

in the second period for his first hat trick in more than six years as the Penguins beat New Jersey. Jaromir Jagr assisted oo all three of Barnes's goals. The Penguins had lost five consecutive games to New Jersey and had been outscored 7-1 in this seasoo's two losses.

Blackhawks 4, Maple Loafs 3 Alexei Zhamnov's goal with 4:45 remaining lifted Chicago over host Toronto. Zhamnov was allowed to skate unchecked into the Toronto slot and his

Courtnall scored twice in the third period to lead the Blues to their fourth straight triumph. Senators 3. Avalanche 3 In Denver Sandis Ozolinsh and Rene Corbet

Blues 5, Flames 1 In Calgary, Geoff

scored 17 seconds apart in the third period as Colorado denied Ottawa its first road victory ever against the Ava-Sharks 5. Sabres 2 Bernie Nicholls

and John MacLean each had a goal and an assist as host San Jose defeated Buffalo. The Sharks ended a two-game losing streak as Mike Vernon turned back 17 shots. Michal Grosek and Randy Burridge scored for Buffalo.

Ollers 4, Kings 3 Bill Guerin scored during a four-minute power play and Kelly Buchberger connected during a five-minute advantage as visiting Edmonton beat Los Angeles Kings for its third straight victory. Tony Hrkac opened the scoring with a power-play goal.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL NBA STANDINGS Abdur-Rahim 8-14 5-7 22. Reeves 10-13 0-0 20. Rabeads—Chariotte 28 (Mason 12), Vancouver 40 (Reeves 9). Assists—Chariotte 25 (Wesley 7), Vancouver 26 (Abdur-Rahim Type of the second of the seco 25 (Wesley 7), Vancouver 26 (Abdur-Ransm 7), San Antonio 24 21 16 19—79 Phoesix 25 28 28 19—160 S.A.; Person 6-12 0-6 16, Duncan 6-13 3-6 15, O.Robbinson 5-17 5-7 15; P. McDyess 8-11 2-6 18, Chapman 7-12 2-2 18, Rebounds—San Antonio 61 (D.Rebinson 16), Phoenix 58 (Cabolino 8), Assists—San Antonio 17 (Johnson 6), Phoenix 29 (Cold 12), L.A. Labars 25 34 31 22—125 L.A. Clapers 29 34 34 22—15 L. Labars China 14-20 4-11 32, Jones 10-15 4-6 27; Chippers; Murroy 7-13 4-3 20, Toylor 11-16 4-6 26, Rebound5-L.A. Lukars 46 (Campbell 10), L.A. Clapers 58 (Rogers 8). Assists—L.A. Lukars 16 (Van Erel 5), L.A. Clippers 12 (Mortin 6). .674 — .676 1 .636 24 .510 2 3% B 8% 19% 2 37 .061

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SATURDAY'S RESULTS

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Chicago 1 1 8—2
Plast Period: C-Date 15 (Block, Webrich)

(pp). Second Period: P-Roenick 12 First Period: V-Sillinger 9 (Orband, Burel (str), 2 F-Neidermayer B (Svehic, Sheppord) (Amorite) 4. P-Trocchok 27 (Numminen, Romning) (pp). Third Period: P-trendorsky 1 (Drates, Roenick). 6. P-Tocchet 16 (Ronning, Wossbard) Overtiener, Nove., Shels Ronning) (pp). Tilini Period: P. Tverdovsky i (Drotos, Reenick). 6. P. Tocchet is (Ronning, Turchult) Shots an godf: P. 11-46—21. C. 5. 8-8—21. Geollies: P. Wotte. C. Hockett. Detroit 0 2 1 8—3 Dollins: P. Wotte. C. Hockett. 1 1 1 0—3 Pirst Period: D. Lehtimen 15 (Hatches, Langer-brunner) Second Period: D. Wright I (Hoguel 3. O. Mottby 9 (Glichist, Lidstron) 4. D. Murphy 5 (Lidstron, LaPainte) Third Period: O. Yzerman 12 (Kozlov, Felfsov) 6. D. Lehtimen 16 (Madona, Chombess) Overfisse. None, Shots on godf: D. 7-7-10-2-36. D. 6-None, Shots on gent: D- 7-7-10-2-26. D- 6-11-6-0-23. Goniles: D-Osgood, O-Bellour. 11-6-23. Goalles: D-Ospod. D-Beffour.
Florida
1 1 1 8-3
Calgary
0 1 2 9-3
First Period: F-Mutter 3 (Eckins) Second
Period: C-Stiffman 15 (Cossest) (st.). 2 FLindsoy 7, (st.). Third Period: C-McCorrity 4
(Cossest) 5, C-5 (Simman 16, (st.). 6, F-Mutter
4 (Melionby) Overfine: None, Sher's on gent:
F-5-9-11-1-26, C-11-9-12-1-33. Goalles: FVanishestrouck. C-T observed.

Emotivo
Ausheiro
Ausheiro
First Partind: E-Murroy 6 (Kovolenko,
Zelepuidri) 2. E-Grier 5 (Hrinco McAmmond)
Second Partind: E-Hrinco 6 (Buchberger,
McAmmond) 4. A-Secon 6 (Nielsen,
Bonnister) Third Perfect: E-Morchont 5
(Guerin) 6. E-Guerin 6 (Weight, Morchont)
Shots on goal: E-12-610—28. A-7-8-3—18.
Gedies: E-Joseph. A-Hebert.
SATURDARY'S ELEPUITS
Corollina 0 1 0 1—2
N.Y. Islanders 0 1 0 8—1
First Perfect: N.Y.-Green 12 (Reichel,
Jousson) (pp). Second Partind: C-Kron 11
(Kopanen, Leschystryn) Third Perfod: None.
Overfitter: 3. C-Softnglio 1 (Roberts,
Romhelm) Shots on goal: C-4-8-6-1—19.
N.Y.- 13-9-8-0—30. Gedies: C-Kidd. N.Y.Plotherty.

N.Y. 13-9-8-0-30. Gentles: C. Kidd. N.Y. Pirineriy.

New Jersey

0 0 1-1

Pithsturgh

0 4 0-4

Pirin Parioch None. Second Period: P-Bornes.

13 (Franch: Jogd) (pp). 2. P-Bornes. 14

(Hatcher, Jogd) (pp). 3. P-Bornes. 15

(Werenko: Jogn) 4. P-Long 7 (Hicks. Werenko). Third Period: N.J. Antoff 6

(Bodger, Gilmour) Sharts an goal: N.J.- 12-7.

2-30. P- 10-12-12-34. Goodless: N.J.
Brodeur, Dunhom. P-Stardro.

Chicago

1 2 1-4

Terroll Period: C. Amortis 15 (Laflostme, Miller).

First Period: C. Amortis 15 (Laflostme, Miller).

Tereda

First Period: C. Amorito 15 (Liflourine, Miller)

Z. T. Sundin 17 (D. King) Second Period: C.
Duze 16 (Skock, Chefics) (pp). 4 C. Dubinsky

3 (Mills. Sutier) 5. T. D. King 18 (Sundin) Third
Period: T. Sundin 18 (Prochezics, Berezin) 7.
C. Zhammov 10 (Amorite, Liflourine) Shots on
good: C. 7:11:7—25. T. 12:6-18—36. Goodies:
C. Trafficx, T. Potvin.

Ottowa

1 0 2 0—2
Celorado
0 0 2 8—3
First Period: D. Yeshin 17 (McEgichem) Catenda
First Parlod: D-Yeshin 17 (McCachem)
Second Period: None. Third Period: C-Corbet
9 (Krupp, Deadmarsh) (pg1, 3, 0-Yeshin 18
(Alfredsson, Arvedsson) 4, 0-Yeshin 19
(Dackell) 5, C-Corolinah 6 (Kamersky, Krupp)
(pp), 6, C-Corbet 10 (Odgan, Lacrob)
Divertinate, None. Sheft on gods; 0-10-8-6
3—37, C-10-11-11-3—34. Godfes: 0-Rhodes.

S (Shvens, St. Louis 2 1 2—5 over 11 (Another, Calgary 0 1 6—1 1 (Robiton, First Period: 5.L.-Miximais 12 (Ducheene, Futa) (pp), 2 5.L.-Attivyoum 0 (Pellarin, 12 (Holit, Conny) Second Period: Children (pp), 4 S.L.-Conny 5 (Pronger) Third Period: Norma, 8 R.L. 1-2-8 period: S.L.-Courimai 17 (Turgeon, Boltston, N.L. Maccines) (pp), 6 S.L.-Courimai 18, Shorts on peak 5.L. 14/13/10—27, C 4-11-12—27. Gerdies: S.L.-Futr. C-Roboson.

1 1 8—2 Florida: 1 0 1 9—2 vonceover 1 1 8 9—2

(Whitney, Woshburn) Overtiere: Kone, Shets on goal: F- 8-5-12-1—26, V- 8-9-4-0—21. Goaffes: F-Vanbiesbrouck, V-Burke, Buffale 0 1 1—2

2 S.J.-Mariow 8 (Noton, McSoriey) Second Period: S.J.-Zyuzin 2 (Craven, Nicholis) 4 B-7 (Heurider) (pp). Third Period: S.J.-Nicholts 2 (WacLean, Croven) 7, B-Burrioge 4 (Dowe, Peca) Stels at god: B- 5-11-2-10. S.J.-14-9-19-42. Godlies: B-Hosek. S.J.-Vernon.

9-19—42 Godins: B-Hosek S.J.-Vernon.
Edizorthal
Les Appeles
First Period: E-Nrico: 7 (Kowstenko.
Zeiepukin) (pp). 2. L.A.-Tsypiskov 11,
Second Pariod: E-Weight 15 (Hamsfilk,
McAmmond) 4. E-Guerin 7 (Hamsfilk,
Weight) (pp). 5. L.A.-Latoyette 2 (Berg.,
Stompe) Third Period: E-Buchberger 4
(Morchant, Lindgren) (pp). 7. L.A.-Blake 8
(Galley, Robindille (pp.). Shots as gest E-1019-12—46. L.A.- 9-8-14—31. Godiles: EJoseph. L.A.-Fiset.

INDEPENDENCE COP INDIA VS. BANGLADESH SATURDAY, IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH Bonolodesh: 190 (48 overs) SUNDAY, IN DHAKA, BANGLADESI

AUSTRALIA VS. SOUTH AFRICA

uit: South Africa won by five wickels. ZIMBARWE VS. SRI CANKA FIRST TEST, STH DAY
SUMDAY, W KAMDAY, SHI LAKKA
Sri Lanks: 469-9 declared Zimbabwe: 140 and 339 all out

WORLD CUP

MEN'S SUPER-O SLALOM utes; 2, Stephan Eberharter Austria. 1:16.16 1 Luca Cationeo, Italy, 1:16.36; 4, Fredrik Nyberg, Sweden, 1:16.57; 5, Patrik Jestlyn Sweden, 1:16.85; 6, Andreas Schifferer, Aushttp://lid.97; 7, Guenther Moder, Austria, 1:17.01; 0, Wenner Franz, Austria, 1:17.13; 9, Kristian Ghedina, Italy, 1:17.12; 10, Didler Cuche, Sadtzerland, 1:17.25. SUNDAY, IN SCHLADNING, AUSTRIA 1, Moles, 1:1484 2. Schifferer, 1:16.03 2. Eberharter, 1:16.14 4, Rainer Satzgeber, Aus

Eberharter, 1:16.14 4. Rainer Softgeber, Austria, 1:16.54 4. Peter Runggeldier, Ilah; 1:16.54 6. Jerbyn, 1:16.65 7. Paul Accold.
Serfizertand, 1:16.68 8. Alessandro Fottori, Italy, 1:16.90 9. Cuche, 1:17.14 10. Daran Robbres, United States, 1:17.29
OVERALL STANDINGS (After 18 remark: 1. Moles, 1.019 Points; 2. Eberharter, 648; 3. Schifferer, 556 4. Michoel von Grungen. Switzerland. 456: 5. Christian Mayer, Austria, 394 6. Kicili-Andre Ammott. Norwork, 398 5. Alberta Tombos, Italy, 366: 8. Lussa. 1 0 1 9—2 Austria, 394-6 Kjetil-Andre Admort, Norway 1 1 6 8—2 396 7, Alberta Tomba, Haly, 366 & Lusse

Kjus, Norway, 354; 9, Hans Knoess, Austria, Allerica de Madrid 1, Real Madrid 1 336; 10, Josef Strobl, Austria, 312. Merida 2, Ovleda 1 SUPER-C STANDARDS (After 3 recess):

1. Maier, 300 points; 2. Eberharier, 220; 3. Schillerer, 120; 4. Collume, 100; 5. Nyberg, 91, 5. Jurby, 91, 5. Cuche, 91; 8. Accold, 75; 9. Knows, 76, 9. Meder, 76.

WOMEN'S GLART SLALOM SATURDAY, M BORNIO, ITALY 1. Martina Eril, Germany, 2 minutes, 21.99 COndo(first run 1:00.79/second run1:13.10); 2. Katja Seizinger, Germany, 222,63 (1:08.95/1:13.68); 3. Deborah Compognoni. holy, 2:22.67 (1:08.87.112.79); 4. Andrine Flerumen, Norwen 2:22.67

httpl, 222.67 (1:08.88/1:12.79); 4. Andrine Flernmen, Norway, 222.85 (1:08.58/1:14.27); 5. Sonjo Net, Switzerlond, 227.46 (1:09.33/1:14.13); 6. Afactondra Meissnätzer, Austria, 2:23.46 (1:09.33/1:14.13); 7. Leide Pccord, France, 2:24.16 (1:09.26/1:14.90); 8. Hidde Gerg, Germeny, 2:24.29 (1:09.19.15.20); 9. Coffeerine Borght, Switzerlond, 2:24.49 (1:09.78/1:14.70); 10, (fie) Spala Pretnor, Slovenia, 2:25.06 (1:09.73/1:15.33). tric, 225.06 (1:09.737:15.33).

SIROAK, MR BORMED, ITALY

1. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 1 minute 35.01 seconds (first nur 47.07/second ren 47.94 2, Krisfine Kroznick, U.S. 1:25.28 (46.93/41.35) 2, Pretner, 1:35.26 (47.37/48.15) 4, Luner Pequegnol, France, 1:35.65 (47.30/48.35) 5, Sobine Egget, America, 1:35.89 (47.30/48.35) 6, Trine Boths, Norwity, 1:36 7, Compagnori, 1:36.69 (47.88 + 46.46) 8, Ursan Norwit, Sie.

valda, 1:36.41 (47.6) + 49.00) 9, Yiva Nower. Sweden, 1:36.62 (47.88 + 48.74) 10, Lara Magani, Haly, 1:36.69 (48.14 + 48.55) OVERALL STANDENGS: 1. Seizinger, 1,079 points: 2, Gerg. 902: 3, Compagnani, 781; 4, Ertl. 739: 5, Nowen, 662: 6. Meissnitzer, 561; 7, Isolde Kostner, Italy, 406; 8, Placer 377, 0, Hrovet, 377; 10, Renote Goetschi, Au

377.0, PHOYOL 3775 PARAMETERS. 1, Novem, 509 points: 2, Koznict, 350: 3, Gerg, 279: 4, Compagnant, 278: 5, Hrovet, 228: 6, Sieggal, 220: 7, Pretnar, 183: 8, Bakke, 172: 9, Egger, 168: 10, Selzinger, 162.

SOCCER

EXCLUSE PREMIER LEAGUE Arsenal 2, Leeds 1 Auton Vita 1, Leicester 1 Belton C. Southampton 0 Chelses 3, Coventry 1

Crystal Palace 1. Eventon 3

Liverpool 2, Winnbledon 0 Manchester United 2, Tottenham 0 Sheffleld Wednesday 2, Newcastle 1 West Ham 6, Barnsley 0 Derby 3, Blockburn 1 STANDBAGE: Manchester United 49 points: Chelsen 42: Blackburn 41: Liverpool 40: Ar-send 37: Derby 35; Leeds 35; West Nam 34; Lelcester 25; Aston Villo 27: Mexicand 25; Sheffleld Wednesday 26: Southampton 25; Wimbledon 24; Everton 23. Covernity 23, Crys-

Bornsley 18.
FRENCH FIRST DIVISION
Metz 1, Rennes 0
Monaco 0, Connes 1 Lyon 2. Marsellle 1 Chaleauroux 3. Auxerre 2 NOS: Metz 45 points: Paris 51 Gen STANDAROS. NATZ O POINTE PAIR ST GEN-moin 44, Monoco 41; Marselle 37, Lens 37; Bordeaux 35; Auxene 32; Lyon 32; Bossie 27; Toujouse 28; Montpallior 27; Gelingonip 24; Nontes 23; Le Houre 22, Chategoreux 22; Strosbourg 21; Cannes 20; Rennes 17, SPAJESSE FIRST DIVESSOM Zaragoza I, Ceita 0 Espanyol 0, Athletic de 2810ao 1 Botis vs. Vatladolid (Postponed) Salomanca O, Racing de Santan Real Socieded vs. Barrelana (Late Game)

Deporting de La Consna 1, Tenerie 0
Sporting de Gijan 0, Compostela 2
STANDINGAS: Barcetana 40 points, Real
Madrid 40: Real Sociedad 35, Atletica Bibbo 35: Alfelico Madrid 24: Espanyol 32: Celta Vigo 31: Bellis 29: Zorspaco 29: Majorco 27: Ovledo 24: Rocing Santander 24: Merido 23: Departive 22: Val Compostela 20. Valladalid 20: Tenerife 18:

Bord Q. Attained 0
Brescia 1, Florenting 3 Empeli 0, Balogno 0 Juventus 2, Vicenza 0 Juvenius Z. Vicenza 0 Lazia of Rome 4, Lecce 0 AC Milan 0, AS Roma 0 Piacenza 0, Inter Milan 1 Sampdorio S. AC Perma 2 STANDINGS: Inter Milan 36 points; Juventus 32: Udinese 29; Parma 26; Lazio 25; Florentino 24. AS Roma 24. AC Milan 24: Sampdorio 23: Vicenza 78: Bologna 16: Bari 16: Empoli 15: Brescla 14: Placenza 13: Atufanto Bergamo 13; Lecce 11; Nopoli 5.

TENNIS

AUSTRALIAN HARDCOURT CHAMPI-ONESHIPS
ONESHIPS
JOSON Stollenberg, Australia, def. Todd
Woodbridge (St. Australia, de-4, 6-1; Lierton
Hewitt, Australia, de-1, Andre Agussi, United
Stoles, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-4).

HENTE FINAL Hewitt def. Stollenberg, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). WONER'S FINAL Al Sugiyana (4), Japan, def. Maria Verla. HOPMAN CUP

SATURBAY, IN PERTY, AUSTRALIA
SLOVAIGA 2. FRANCE T
Many Pierce, France, def. Korine Habsudova. Slovaide. 6-4. 7-5; Karol Kucero. Slovolias. def. Cedric Plosino, Fra. 7-6 (9-7), 6-4.
Kocero and Hobsuptovo, Slovaida, def. Pioline and Pierce, France, 6-3, 6-4.
QAXAR OPEN
RESERVALIA

Fabrice Saniare (8), France, def. Goran Iwanisevic (4), Cradia, 6-1, 6-4: Petr Korda (3), Czech Republic, def. Andrel Medvedev Kordo (3) del. Sontoro (8), 6-0 6-4

TRANSITIONS

ANAMENA Agreed to Jerns with RirP William VanLandingham on 1-year contract. Signed INF Morberto Martin to 1-year con-ALTIMORE GRIGLES—Bought control of LHP Norm Charlon from Rochester, II., Designated RHP Hactor Ramikez for assignment. CHICAGO—Agrood to terms with DF Ruben Sterm and RNP Jim Builtinger on minor-league controcts.

**LAKEAS CITY—Agrood to terms with LHP Chris Hans on Leaver controct.

Brandon Knight and RHP Dan Smith to 1-NATIONAL I FACEL ARIZONA - Agreed to terms with LHP Mark ovis on minor-league controct.

ATLANTA-Agreed to terms with LHP Bruce Chen, LHP Daming Mass, RHP Dwayne Jocobs, C Fernanda Lunar, C Pas-cual Maries and INF Glen Williams on 1-year controls.
HOUSTON-Agreed to terms with LHP Pete
Schourek and RHP Reggle Harris on minor-

ATLANTA—Suspended G Ed Gray 1 game for folling to appear at medical appointment

POOTRALL NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE AMAHEIM-Traded D Bobby Dollas to Edinfon for D Drew Bonnister, at SATY—Recoiled F Enil Andersson from CAROLINA-Assigned G Trucy Tripp to New

Haven, AHL Recalled G Alike Foundain from New Haven, Assigned G Pot Jobionski to Cleveland, IHL CHICASO—Recalled F Ryan Huska from Indionopoés, IHL COLORADO-Assigned G David Arbischer in Hershay, AHL

Trom agreed res.

Ogtreet - Recribed LW Corryl Laplante
from Adrendock, AML Assigned RW
Alsondre Jocques to Toledo, ECHL Resigned F Doug Brown to 3-year contract.
EDMONTON—Claimed C Tony Writes off FLORIDA—Signed D Joey Telerenko, Assigned G Dovid Lemonowicz to Talkhousee,

from Intured list.

LA.KINGS-Assigned G Frederic Chobat to Housier, INL.
NEW JERSEY-Recolled LW Jay Pandolfo
from Albumy, AltL. Sent D Bryan Mulr to
Albumy, Assigned G Richard Stulmistra. C
Brendan Marrison. C Sengel Bryan and D
Brud Bombardir to Albumy, AkL. Signed RW
Date McKer, In. Randy McKey to multiyear contract exten-sion. Tribded LW Reld Singson to Chicago for

1998 4th-round droft pick and future can N.Y. SLANDERS-Reussigned LW Score only to Kentucky, AHL Recoiled C Kin Affect from Utah, INL

N.Y. RANGERS—Recalled D Gooff Smith and D Romie Sendin from Honford, AHL. OTTAWA—Recoiled D Radim Bicarek from

Manitoba, IHL. Returned C Derek Armskong

Springfield AHI Dome to Syrocuse, AHL ST. LOUIS BLUES-Assigned RW Chris Ke-

VANCOUVER-Assigned LW Dave Roberts to Syrocuse, AHL WASHINGTON—Recoiled Ishin from Portland, AHL

TEXAS—Agreed to terms with DF Tom ALASAMA
COOLING ON 1-year controct. Signed RHP boll cooch. ALABAMA ALM-Fired Ken Pelifford, foot-

Herald Eribung PORTS

WORLD ROUNDUP

Was Tyson There?

RUGBY UNION Officials of the London Scottish club called on the Bath club to ban one of its players for ear-biting. The problem is that Bobody seems to know who the guilty man is, except the player himself and, so far, he has not confessed.

Officials would not say exactly what happened, but Ashley Rowden, referee of the match Saturday between Bath, one of England's top clubs, and London Scottish, said the Scottish player Simon Fenn had part of his left ear lobe bitten off.

"In my experience as a referee, I have never experienced anything like it — the player was clearly missing some part of his ear lobe — and it looked quite bad," Rowden said. "There was a lot of blood."

Fenn, a 26-year-old Australian making his debut with London Scottish in the Tetley's Bitter Cup fourth-round match, was taken to a hospital and asked not to comment by team officials.

The London Scottish chief executive. Richard Yerbury, said that Fenn underwent plastic sur-gery on Sunday. (AP. Reuters)

Conner Makes Protest

SAILING Toshiba and its skip-Standbridge, lodged a protest against EF Language after the end of the fourth leg of the Whitbread round-the-world race.

The protest - the first since the yachts left Southampton, England, in the fall — will be considered Tuesday by an interna-tional jury meeting at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron. Toshiba finished second in the leg, just two minutes behind Merit

Conner claims be was put at a disadvantage in the tightly con-tested leg because EF Language did not display navigation lights on the night of Jan. 8.

Toshiba was at a disadvantage by not being able to keep visual contact with our close competition," said the team's protest. EF Language, skippered by

Paul Cayard, finished behind Toshiba in the leg bnt has a 39-point overall lead over Merit

Toshiba is in fifth place, 73 points behind EF Language.
(AP, AFP, Reuters)

South Africa in Final

CRICKET South Africa clinched a berth in the World Series final later this month by beating Aus tralia by five wickets in Brisbane on Sanday.

Australia batted first and made 235 runs in its 50 overs. South Africa reached the target with 2.3 overs to spare for the lost of five wickets.

Gary Kirsten anchored the in-

nings with a fluent 89, including ll fours.

• In Dhaka, Bangladesh, India beat Pakistan by 18 runs in its Independence Cup match Sunday. India scored 245 runs in 37 overs and Pakistan reached 227 for nine

wickets in reply.

In Kandy, Sri Lanka, Mutthiah Muralitharun, a spin bowler, finished with 12 wickets in the match as Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 10 wickets.

Zimbabwe battled to 338 all out on the final day. Leaving Sri Lanka needing to score just 10 runs to win in its second in-

Bandits on Dakar Route

RALLYING Bandits attacked vehicles in the Paris-Dakar race and stole one of them, according to organizers who canceled the 10th stage through Mali.

The Saturday stage of the Paris-Dakar race was to run from Taoudenni to Gao, over a distance of 918 kilometers (550 miles). But Friday night, an unidentified group of about eight men

attacked two competing as they approached the hivouac. Organizers denied Saturday that the attacks had forced the suspension; they said the cancel-

lation was called to regroup contestants spread out over the



Aldo Winkler pushing his motorcycle over a dune after a fall in the Paris-Dakar rally.



Maurizio Rossi of Lecce, left, tackling Alen Boksic of Lazio during their league match in Rome on Sunday. Boksic scored twice as Lazio won, 4-0.

Inter Stays on Top, Downing Piacenza, 1-0

Paris-Saint Germain Beats Strasbourg, 2-1; Rangers Still on Track for Scottish Title

Compiled by Ow Staff From Dispatches

Francesco Moriero scored after a superb solo run to give Inter Milan, the Italian Serie A leader, a 1-0 victory at Piacenza on Sunday.

Inter won for the 11th time in 15

league matches and remained four points ahead of second-place Juventus.

Moreiro scored in the 69th minute. He received the ball on the right wing and dribbled past three defenders

EUROPEAN SOCCER ROUNDUP

before placing a precise shot in the far corner of the goal, beyond the dive of Matteo Sereni, the Piacenza goalkeeper. Inter had suffered a humiliating 5-0 defeat to its neighbor, AC Milan, in the Italian cup quarterfinal during the

We wanted to show that we had forgotten what happened the other night," said Luigi Simoni, the Inter

Simoni said the game Sunday was a "real battle." Ronaldo, Inter's star striker, was guarded well by Pietro Vierchowod, 38, a former Italian national defender. And Piacenza frequently threatened the Inter goal.

Gianluca Paglinca, the Inter goalhome team threatened to equalize until a midfielder, Alessandro Mazzola, received a red card in the dying seconds.

Meanwhile, Juventus, the reigning champion, beat Viacenza by 2-0 on Sunday. It was Vicenza's fourth straight

The goals came from Alessandro Del Piero's first-half penalty kick and Ciro Ferrara's 76th-minute header.

Parma, in fourth place, lost ground by being thrashed, 5-2, at Sampdoria. Giuseppe Signori scored twice for Samp-

doria, his first goals for the club since joining from Lazio in December. Parma's defense had conceded just 11 goals in its previous 14 league

AC Milan and AS Roma drew, 0-0, at the San Siro in Milan, allowing Lazio to leap over both clubs into fifth place with a 4-0 victory against lowly Lecce at the Olympic stadium in Rome.

In Milan, a Roma striker, Francesco Totti, crashed a shot against the Milan crossbar in the closing moments.

Roberto Rambaudi and Diego Fuscr broke a first-half deadlock before Alen Boksic scored two late goals. Suker has scored six goals in the last five games.

Gabriel Batistuta, Serie A's top scorer, raised his season's total to 14 by scoring Fiorentina's second goal in an

impressive 3-1 victory at Brescia. Bologna moved away from the relegation zone with a 0-0 draw at Empoli, where Roberto Baggio was presented with a medal to commemorate his 300th Italian-league match.

SPAIN Athletic Bilbao moved up to fourth position in the first division on Sunday after a goal by Julen Guerrero ended the unbeaten home record of fifth-placed Espanyol.

On Saturday, Savio Bortolini began providing a return on the \$13.3 million investment that Real Madrid made in him in December with his first goal in a

The Brazilian midfielder put the Spanish champion ahead after being on the field for just six minutes in the match against its local rival, Atletico. Another second-half substitute, Jose

Mari Romero, scored four minutes from time to give the home team a 1-1 tie. FRANCE Paris-Saint Germain re vision with a 2-1 victory over Strasbourg in Paris on Sunday. Eric Rabesandratana gave PSG the lead after 53 minutes and Marco Simone scored keeper, made a series of saves to thwart the second goal in the 72d minute. Pas-Davide Dionigi in the first-half and the cal Nouma headed in a late goal for

LONDON - Dean Sturridge

scored twice Sunday as Derby County

beat Blackburn Rovers, 3-1, at Pride

Blackburn could have regained

second place but remained in third behind Chelsea and Manchester United, the leader. Derby moved up to

Sturridge put the home team ahead in the 15th minute when he lashed a

right-footed shot past Tim Flowers,

right-foot shot four minutes before

Derby's Costa Rican striker, stabbed

On School Holiday, Hewitt Gets First Victory

Sturridge scored again with another

the Blackburn goalkeeper.

Park, Derby.

sixth place.

Metz beat Rennes, 1-0, on Saturday to retain top spot.

Bottom-of-the-table Cannes added some spice to the championship race by beating Monaco, the reigning cham-SCOTLAND Rangers beat Aberdeen,

its 10th successive Scottish League Rangers raced into a two-goal lead with scores from Sergio Porrini in the

by 3-0 on Saturday to stay on course for

ninth minnte and Brian Laudrup in the Aberdeen, facing relegation from the Premier Division for the first time, played the last 25 minutes with 10 men

after the Bulgarian midfielder Ilian Kiriakov received a red card. Porrini's goal might have eased any guilt he might have been feeling for pntting his teammate Marco Negri out

of the game. Negri, the top scorer in Europe this ason with 30 goals, was forced to miss the match after being hit in the eye by a squash ball in a match with Porrini

Celtic lost ground on its old rival when it was held to a 1-1 draw at Motherwell, which took the lead with a Willie Falconer header after 55

Paul Lambert, a recent signing from Borussia Dortmand, was the Celtic sa-

Sturridge Strikes Twice to Lift Derby

in the ball from close range.
On Sanirday, Manchester United beat injury-hit Tottenham Hotspur 2-0.

Both United goals were scored by

Ryan Giggs, although the first did not

come until just before halftime, break-

ing some stubborn resistance from

Spurs, who had 10 first-team players

their new hire from Inter Milan, and

although be had a promising start for the

attack and Juergen Klinsmann made

Chelsea trailed Coventry, 1-0, for

and one from Roberto di Matteo in the

relegation-threatened side, the Spurs'

little impression on United's defense.

Spurs gave a debut to Nicola Berti.

missing because of injuries.

vior with a goal from 30 meters in the

 Paul Gascoigne, the England in-ternational midfielder, apologized on Saturday for miming a flute-player dur-ing the so-called Old Firm match between Rangers and Celtic last week.

Gascoigne, who did not play against Aberdeen on Saturday, was fined by Rangers on Friday for his actions.

Gascoigne pretended to play an imaginary flute -a symbol of the Protestant marches favored by the Rangers fans and considered inflammatory by the mainly Roman Catholic Celtic fans - as he warmed up before coming on as a substitute.

Gascoigne said, "I would like to unreservedly apologize for my actions during the match at Celtic Park last

Gascoigne performed the same routine in 1995 shortly after joining Rangers. He apologized afterward, sayhe had not realized it would cause offense to Catholics.

Gascoigne's gesture was not noticed which Celtic won by 2-0, but it was captured on television and led to widespread criticism.

In Saturday's letters page of The Times of London, Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, wrote that Celtic fans had been chanting constant taunts.

in a match transformed after the

Chelsea player-coach Rund Guilit put

Liverpool, in fourth place, beat Wimbledon 2-0 with two second-half

It was Liverpool's fifth successive

league victory. Arsenal beat Leeds, managed by

George Graham, the ex-Arsenal man-

All three goals were scored by Dutchmen. Marc Overmars struck for

Arsenal after 60 minutes and 72

minutes and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink

himself into the game.

goals from Jamie Redknapp.

Broncos Top The Steelers By 24-21

Elway Leads Denver Into the Super Bowl

PITTSBURGH - This time, John El-

way didn't need a fourth-quarter corneback to get back to the Super Bowl. The Denver Broncos, one year after they couldn't get there even with the home-field advantage, took a 10-point lead on Elway's two touchdown passes in the final two minutes of the first half,

then held off turnover-plagued Pitts-burgh for a 24-21 victory Sunday in the AFC championship game. Elway also led a tense drive in the final minutes to keep the ball away from the Steelers, who pulled within three

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

points on Kordell Stewart's touchdown pass with 2:46 left for the only points of

the second half. After an eight-year wait, Elway, the Broncos' 37-year-old quarterback, has a fourth and possibly last chance to win

the Super Bowl. The last two AFC championship games in Pittsburgh went down to the final play, just as Elway's first two victories in the AFC title game in the 1986 and 1987 seasons did Nobody is better in winning games in the fourth quarter than Elway, who has led 42 such

certainly end in the Hall of Fame. This time, Elway managed the clock and his offense to perfection late in the second quarter, masterfully driving the Broncos to two touchdowns in a span of 1:34 to put Denver np 24-14 at halftime. Both touchdown passes — one to full-back Howard Griffith, the other to Ed Mc Caffrey - resulted from pass in-

terference penalties that totaled 56

Still, Stewart, who has mimicked Elway all season by leading five fourthquarter comebacks of his own, nearly did it again. He shook off three interceptions, all of them critical, to hit Charles Johnson on a 14-yard scoring

pass with 2:46 to play. The score, Pittsburgh's first since Jerome Bettis's 1-yard run with 12:42 left in the second quarter, seemed to electrify the Steelers and their bench, and they held Denver to three yards on

the their next two plays. But Elway found his tight end, Shannon Sharpe, over the middle for 18 yards and a first down with only 1:52 to play. Denver had its fifth AFC championship and its second won on the road. The Broncos also won in 1986 in Clev-

Elway was 18-of-31 for 210 yards tion, while Stewart was 18-of-36 for 201 yards and a TD.

Both of the big backs, Denver's Ter-rell Davis (26-139) and Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis (23-105) went over 100 yards, but it was Elway who won it and Stewart who couldn't win it for Pittsburgh, which lost the AFC championship game at home for the second time in four years. The Steelers were upset by San Diego, 17-13, in the 1994

The Steelers had won eight straight at Three Rivers Stadium since an openinggame 37-7 loss to Dallas, and 22 of their

Stewart, trying to become the first quarterback to lead a team to the Super Bowl in his first full season at the position, didn't look unsettled by the big-

game atmosphere.

Stewart answered Davis's 8-yard TD
run with a 33-yard scoring run of his own, one strikingly similar to his 40yard game-winner against New England last week. He then led a 68-yard drive finished off by Bettis's 1-yard run, giving the Steelers a 14-7 lead.

But Stewart's biggest fault has been throwing into coverage, and this time it hurt him badly. He was intercepted three times and lost a fumble in a span of six possessions. Coupled with the interference calls, they were simply too much to overcome against the AFC's top-ranked

scored for Leeds in the 69th minute. more than a half-hour of Saturday's West Ham crushed last-place Chris Sutton pulled a goal back for league match before bouncing back to Barnsley, 6-0, at Upton Park. A young Frenchman, Samassi Abou, scored Blackburn with a fiercely-angled win 3-1. Two goals from the substitute Mark header in the 87th minute. One minute later, Paulo Wanchope, twice and assisted on all the other Nicholls in the 65th and 70th minutes,

Computed by Our Staff From Dispatche Lleyton Hewin took a break during the school holidays and became the second-youngest title winner in ATP

Tour history. Hewitt, a 16-year-old Adelaide schoolboy, won the Australian men's hardcourt championships in his home

TENNIS ROUNDUP

town Sunday when he beat Jason Stol-tenberg, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, in 2 hours 9

minutes. Neither player was seeded. Hewitt, who turns 17 next month, was the youngest ATP tournament winner since Michael Chang of the United States broke through in October 1988 with victory in San Francisco at the age of 16 years 7 months. Hewitt also entered the record books as the lowestranked player - at No. 550 - to claim an ATP title since the rankings were

introduced in 1973. He received \$45,000 for the victory. Playing in only his second senior tournament, Hewitt beat the former world No. I Andre Agassi in the semifinals Saturday.

experienced Stoltenberg, a semifinalist Wimbledon in 1996.

Operating almost exclusively from the baseline, Hewitt concentrated on Stoltenberg's forehand, which often crumbled under pressure. "I do not think they knew really how

to play me and had not seen a lot of my matches," he said. The victory gave Hewitt an invitation

to play in the Sydney International tournament this week, where he will have a tough first-round encounter with the second-seeded Jonas Bjorkman. In his only previous appearance on

the Australian Open at Melbourne Park Petr Korda won the first 10 games to sweep aside an exhausted Fabrice Santoro of France, 6-0, 6-3, in the Qutar Open final in Doha on Sunday.

the ATP tour, Hewitt lost to Sergi

Bruguera of Spain in the first round of

The Czech left-hander rarely had to hit top form against Santoro, who played three matches Saturday because Paes and Mahesh Bhuapthi.

"I don't think I will be going back to school this year," said Hewitt, who refused to be intimidated by the more ski and Goran Ivanisevic and then the ski and Goran Ivanisevic and then the doubles final.

The first set in the baseline battle was won in 27 minutes, and Korda, seeded third, raced to a 4-0 lead in the second. Santoro, hampered by a knee injury, finally broke Korda's serve to put some respectability into the score.

Korda wrapped up his second Qatar title in three years to take the winner's check of \$137,000.

'That was a very hard match,'' said Santoro. "I had to play three matches on Saturday and that was the toughest day of my life. When you feel like that it is impossible to play against a man like Korda in a final. On Saturday played two of the

game's big servers Greg Rusedski and Goran Ivanisevic. The tournament had been disrupted by wind and rain. After disposing of his quarterfinal and semifinal opponents, Santoro was then asked to play the doubles final which finished in early Sunday morning. Santoro and Olivier Delaitre lost to India's Leander

• In Perth, Anstralia, Karol Kucera and Karina Habsudova swept to a 6-3, 6-4 mixed doubles victory Saturday over France to take the Hopman Cup.

Slovakia won the title when Kucera's forehand hit a net chord and sailed over Cedric Pioline and Mary Pierce of France to the back of the court. Earlier, Kucera kept Slovakia in the

match when he beat Pioline, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4, after Pierce had beaten Habsudova; 6-4, 7-5, to put France up by 1-0. Pierce, playing her fifth match in three days, battled tightness in her

In Sydney, Venus Williams beat Ruxandra Dragomir on Sunday in the first round of the Sydney International when the Romanian defaulted because of a hamstring injury after losing the first set, 6-4,

Williams's 16-year-old sister, Serena, qualified for the tournament with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Lanra Golarsa of Italy. Serena Williams is playing her third professional tournament.

She will face another promising qualifier, Mirjana Lucic, a 15-year old from Croatia, in the first round (AP, Reuters) Lleyton Hewitt enjoying victory.



